

# THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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## THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 15TH JULY.

MR. MUIR WHITE, the Planter, has addressed a very interesting letter to the *Statesman*, in which he dwells on the facts of the false charge brought against him some years ago for the murder of Situl Torufdar, when he was manager of his father's factory at Hanskhally, on the causes of rows between planters, zemindars and ryots, and on the necessity of fostering good feeling between Europeans and Natives in this country. We will reproduce his remarks on the last mentioned point. He writes:—

"The class of Europeans who come out to India, are mostly educated, and have friends or relatives to help them on. These, often taking their cue from the old '*qui hys*,' never give a thought to the fact that this country is undergoing a great change in civilisation and manners. Imbibing the feelings of the old Indians, they treat with the same spirit of hauteur or supercilious patronage the educated natives of the present day. Now such a relative position is ridiculous to any one who looks impartially at both sides. The native is sometimes better educated than his European neighbour, and has a self-importance brought about by the education of the present day and the free discussions in the press. How embarrassing is it for Government to hear a case against a European gentleman, who must be treated with every courtesy, while the native zemindar appearing as witness or accuser has to stand amongst the crowd? This distinction brings about a national feeling of disgust and jealousy—which increases through the medium of the Native Press."

Again:—

The native readily admits the superiority of the English gentleman, but he certainly resents the bumpiness of the English cad. Dave Carson exhibits the feeling of the Bengalee Baboo to a nicety when he burlesques in the joke of "How are you poor," a question put to him by a gentleman in London, whom he thanks for showing such a kind anxiety for his health; but his feelings undergo change on his return to Bengal, for on calling on a *sahib*, he is there greeted with "You d—d poor, if you don't make tracks, I'll kick you out." Although this is an exaggeration, it is nevertheless true that the conduct of Europeans towards natives in England is far better than here. The yearly influx of natives of England tends to acquaint them with this fact, and to induce an increasing but secret disgust. The gulf between the two communities is further widened by the rapid and cheap passages to Europe which unsettle the mind of the European and make him more unamenable than ever to the native, with whom he tries to have as little converse as possible.

There is much truth in the above remarks. Of course the fault is not all on one side, but we may mention that the Indian being weak is always ready to grasp the hand of fellowship if it is stretched forth by the European.

THE ARMY SANITARY Commission have issued a memorandum on the Report of the Bombay Municipality for 1876. In this they remark that although Bombay obtains its water supply from an Excellent and pure source in the Vihar Lake, yet, for want of a proper system of drainage, the water frequently becomes contaminated by the influx of sewage and sub-soil water; the institution of "dipping wells" is also considered to be injudicious; on the ground that however pure the Vihar water may be on its entrance into the well, it becomes exposed to the risk of sewage infiltration and to filth from unclean dipping vessels, besides atmospheric impurities, and it is considered it would be safer to use hydrants, which are now constructed to avoid waste of water. The Secretary of State urges upon the Bombay Government the necessity of carrying out a proper system of drainage without delay.

AN IMPERIAL DECREE has lately been published at Pekin calling for suggestions from all high officials in the provinces as to the best means of suppressing opium smoking. Of the replies that have been received in answer to the decree the general tenor is adverse, it seems, to any immediate possibility of action. It is thought that before the masses are interfered with the attempt to root out the practice of opium smoking amongst the official class must be made, and the growth of the poppy-plant is too widespread to admit of its abrupt prohibition.

THE RE-DISTRIBUTION of the Secretariat staff of the North Western Provinces and Oudh, made recently, and subsequently submitted to the Secretary of State has received His Lordship's approval. The arrangements effected will result in a considerable saving.

IN REMARKING on the report of the Bengal Customs Department for 1876-77, the Secretary of State "entirely agrees with your (that is the Government of India's) approval of the interesting review of the subject by the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal." Satisfaction is expressed that means for securing greater accuracy in the registration of the coasting trade are engaging attention.

A QUANTITY of the seeds of a tree, called the Pi-the colobium Samun, has lately been forwarded to the Government of India by the Home Government with a request that the seeds may be widely distributed wherever facilities exist for their being properly cared for. The tree which is a native of Jamaica appears well adapted for park and avenue planting, but its principal advantage to India will probably be found in the use of its fruits as a fodder for cattle.

TUESDAY, 16TH JULY.

THE INDIAN AGRICULTURISTS (Mr. Robert Knight in a separate garment) has the following:

While demanding a right for the ryot in the interest of the entire Commonwealth, we would not have the zemindar suppose that we are insensible to the fact that his difficulties are often very great from the ill conduct of his tenantry. We have no doubt whatever, that the ryot is but too frequently the aggressor in the agrarian disputes in Bengal, particularly in its Eastern districts. Upon the slightest provocation, and often upon no provocation at all, the ryots will combine not to pay the rents due by them to the zemindar, we cannot but think that exemplary punishment might be very wholesomely inflicted in such cases. Let it be clearly shown, that a body of ryots have combined causelessly to withhold from the zemindar his just rentals, and the leaders should be sharply punished. The ryots of the Eastern districts bear an unfavourable character, and while we must do all we can to secure tenant-right for them, there should be prompt suppression of lawless combinations amongst them.

But what is the cause of this combination? It is nothing but the question of enhancement. If the rent be not enhanced the ryots are willing to keep quiet. But justice to the zemindar requires enhancement, and it is therefore necessary to simplify the law of enhancement of rent.

THE TIMES thus reports a speech of Mr. Caird, who has been appointed a member of the Famine Commission:

Though he often heard India spoken of as a poor country the broad fact that she maintained to the square mile a population greater than that of either France or Germany, both of which had other important industries besides agriculture seemed to show either that her soil was unusually rich, or her agriculture by no means so defective as was generally represented. There was, indeed, no plant of value which could not be produced in India, and in this country we during the last three unproductive years, had experienced the advantage of her agriculture both in the direct supplies and the consequent check to the rise of price, though the increasing quantities of wheat she had been able to send to us and which in 1877 reached one-ninth of our total foreign imports, with fertile soil, an abundant supply of labour, extensive railway communication on all the main lines of travel, and vast works of irrigation already executed India under good Government and with time must prosper. If he should have the good fortune to return from India he might be able to speak from personal knowledge of the subject, one of which, as member of the Famine Commission, it would be his duty to investigate. That the elements of prosperity were there was unquestionable, and this country had undertaken a responsibility for their proper use which could not either with safety or honour be neglected.

We hope Mr. Caird will study the land question of India. He will then find what is it that clogs the springs of industry in this country.

MR. G. M. BATTEN, C. S., and Synd Ahmed Khan, C. S. I., have been appointed additional members of the Viceroy's Legislative Council. Whom does Synd Ahmed succeed? His name was on the card at the time of both Lord Lawrence and Lord Mayo. He is a very able and learned man; we wish his knowledge of English were on a par with his oriental learning. We shall be very much mistaken if he proves a dummy.

THE TITLE of Maharaja, conferred upon the Raja of Pooree on the Proclamation Day of 1877, now undergoing a sentence of penal servitude, is to be withdrawn by official notification.

CERTAIN ENTERPRISING Europeans have determined upon carrying out tea planting in Akyab, the hill tracts there are stated to be peculiarly adapted for the cultivation of the plant.

IT IS proposed to construct a light railway from Mau Sayednugger to Cawnpore.

THE ATTEMPT to grow the poppy in Mozambique appears to have been very successful, for the plants are thriving and the fruits are reported to be large

than those produced in the best opium districts of India. Bad news for India.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY has declined to receive a deputation to present him with a declaration against war, with several thousand signatures, headed by the Duke of Westminster, on the ground that it would be inconvenient to the public service to have any discussion on the matter at present. So even a Duke's name did not carry weight.

WEDNESDAY, 17TH JULY.

THE AMERICAN papers inform us that a flying machine has been tried in the permanent Exhibition Building at Philadelphia with some success. At the first attempt the machine did not ascend, the gas cylinder allowing the gas to escape. This, however, was remedied and supply of hydrogen having been renewed, the operator sprang into his saddle seat, and revolving the paddles, was soon sailing twenty or thirty feet above the heads of the people, dodging the chandeliers and high pavilions with as much skill as a practised pilot avoids the hidden rocks and shoals of rivers.

THE LONDON CORRESPONDENT of the *Pioneer* has the following about the relations between Lord Lytton and Lord Salisbury:

"It is known, to some at least, that Lord Salisbury's conduct towards the Viceroy of India has not been distinguished by over much loyalty towards a friend and colleague. On the contrary, I venture to say that, if ever the history of the present Viceroyalty comes to be written, it will be a deeply disappointing record for the reputation of Lord Salisbury. It will show not one nor two—but many instances where the Government of India have been instructed, encouraged, or advised, to take this or that particular course, and when these instructions have been followed, and a little breeze of disapproval has been set up in England—in most cases by persons without any experience of Indian administration—the Indian Secretary has dropped the whole business and left the Calcutta Government to bear the brunt of the storm, and to shift for themselves. In saying this, I am revealing no secrets. The facts are in everybody's mouth, and it is this knowledge of them which has added to Lord Salisbury's unpopularity for the part he has taken in inducing the Cabinet to enter into separate arrangements with Russia. Even the Foreign Press has been among the first to advocate Lord Salisbury's ejection from the Ministry."

Lord Salisbury as the Secretary of State for India for the second time has been a failure.

A CORRESPONDENT at Halisah requests the attention of the Agent E. B. Railway to the great inconvenience and hardship experienced by the people of that important village and other places surrounding it, in consequence of the nearest railway station Kanchraparrah or Noihatty being not less than 3½ miles distant. He suggests the opening of an intermediate station between the above-named places at a place called Jainteah. He further notices that since the opening of the N. B. S. Railway, Poradah, has become an important place where large numbers of passengers assemble daily, but the station having no shed or covered place for their accommodation is one of the most exposed stations on the line, which affords no shelter to the waiting passengers.

THE NATIVE EMPLOYEES of the Forest department in Chittagong are alarmed at a rumour that the Forest Toll stations of Chittagong will be farmed out to private individuals. The Deputy Commissioner of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, who has control over these toll stations, strongly advocates this change. We hope the poor men will be provided for elsewhere.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the prospectus of a monthly Magazine to be published at Madras from the 15th instant and called the *Student*. It will contain educational news, notes on Text Books prescribed by the University of Madras, Examination Papers and model answers and every thing likely to be of use to B. A. F. A. and Matriculation Students.

THE SATURDAY REVIEW cuts up very severely Colonel Malleon's continuation of Sir John Kaye's history of the Indian Mutiny. The following are some of the phrases used with reference to the work as a whole or particular portions of it:—"We have never read a book with any pretensions of this sort in which the writer's want of judgment and incompetency for the office were more conspicuous;" "absurdly exaggerated panegyric;" "in the treatment of purely military operations the book is still more faulty;" "worthless as a record of military events;" "a great quantity of tawdry writing;" "essential facts are suppressed or misunderstood;" "the merest penny a lining;"

"fibby generalities;" "incapacity to appreciate the relative value of the military operations described;" "astonishing that such rubbish should be put forward by any military man as a record of military operations;" "flattery drenched with coarse brush;" and finally, "the feeling after reading his book will be one of regret that a great subject should have received such inadequate and feeble treatment."

THE MAGNITUDE of the Socialist movement in Germany may be comprehended, from the statement that the Socialistic Press of that country, boasts of no less than seventy-five publications, with 135,000 subscribers, an increase of eighteen in the number of papers having been added since last year.

THIS MORNING'S ENGLISHMAN has the following:

"Damn the Legality," says the *Indian Mirror*, was a phrase used by the *Hindoo Patriot* in reference to the late erratic Magistrate of Srirampore. We were hitherto under the impression that "Damn the legality" was a phrase used by the erratic Magistrate in question in reference to certain unwelcome arguments of a law-loving Municipal Commissioner. If history is to be made out of such trifles, there is no reason why it should be made upside down; and we are quite sure the *Hindoo Patriot* is far too staid and respectable an organ to use so irreverent a phrase respecting any one whomsoever."

THURSDAY, 18TH JULY.

It is stated that the Duke of Cambridge has discovered that a regular system of black mail prevails in the Horse Guards, and that Officers who refused to give a bribe to facilitate matters have found it impossible to get appointments. There is something in the air—corruption everywhere. Perhaps the expensiveness of modern civilization is greatly answerable for it.

POLICE OPPRESSION: A Native witness in the Sholapore Railway frauds case has deposed that the Police kept him two days without food and threatened to kill him!

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA has reduced the stamp fee for License tax applications to one anna.

AS WE had anticipated the Government of India's Resolution on the admission of Natives into the volunteer-corps bids fair to prove a dead letter. The *Englishman* hears from Bombay that the Bombay Volunteers have been "sounded as to whether they approve of the Parsis' admission to the corps. The feeling is so strong against the proposal, that the subject will probably drop." Sir R. Temple is trying his best to help the admission of the Parsis. But oil and water won't mix.

UNDER ORDERS from the Secretary of State the Government has directed its several Departments and the local Governments to make henceforth their own arrangements for the supply of such newspapers and periodicals published in Europe and America as they may require for their own use and for the use of the officers subordinate to them. Parliamentary reports and other official publications will be supplied by the India Office as heretofore.

WE LEARN that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will visit Rungpore on his way to Calcutta on the 30th and 31st instant and arrive here on the 21st August. His Honor will probably remain some time in Calcutta before proceeding on tour.

WE ARE indebted to a correspondent at Darjeeling for the following budget of news:

"It is proposed to give house-accommodation to the clerks of the Government offices located at Darjeeling as reports were sent up to Government to the effect that many of them have expressed their willingness to be permanently stationed there. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor made a personal enquiry and the replies received shewed that the fact was otherwise. A circular has gone forth calling for a report on the number of native clerks for whom house-accommodation should be provided for."

The forester who was under criminal trial had been sentenced to four years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 900 by the Deputy Commissioner, but that sentence has been reduced to a rigorous imprisonment of nine months only by the Assistant Sessions Judge.

Besides the Hindoo Tea Company four new tea-gardens have been opened by natives at Darjeeling.

MR. T. R. TOTTENHAM of 54 Dhurmotollah Street sends us certificates of some cures from snake-bite effected by him, but his patients do not say what species of snakes they were.

THE PRESIDENT and Members of the Famine Commission propose to visit the principal provinces of India during the next cold season to conduct local enquiries. What was then the necessity of gathering so many high officials at Simla at so much expense? What is their work there? Framing questions, digesting statistics, writing dramas, acting them, and playing badminton! And the tax-payers of India are made to bleed. Sweet is the dance when another pays!

FRIDAY, 19TH JULY.

THE INHABITANTS of Sankrail, Santosh, Basha, and Kagmari within the Chowkidari union of Tangrail in

the Mymensing District have memorialised His Honor the Lieutenant Governor against the proposal to convert the Chowkidari union of Tangrail in which the above villages are included into a second class municipality. They contend that under the provisions of Section 11 of Act V. of 1876, the Bengal Municipal Act, the union does not fulfil the conditions necessary to the extension to it of the provisions of the above Act. Out of 4208 male adults 1215 are agriculturists, but the Act requires that three-fourths of the adult male population shall be employed in pursuits other than agricultural; again, none of the villages contains three thousand inhabitants; thirdly, the proportion of the population to the square mile is less than 1,000 as the area of the union is 19 square miles and the population about 14,000. The memorial is well reasoned throughout and deserves a favorable consideration. Mr. Reynolds, when Magistrate of Mymensing, observed when a similar proposal was made that "he was unable to see the advantage of inventing a town which does not exist, with the object of introducing a law which is not applicable."

THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER of Futtegarh has submitted an interesting memo on the hail-storm there on the 13th April last. The hail-stones measured 3 to 3½ inches each. The Civil and Military Officers of the station agree in describing the stones as large as a man's two fists met together.

NEWS HAS been received from Pekin that Ching-how, Chinese Governor General of Manchuria, has been appointed Chinese Minister at St. Petersburg.

THE *Indian Charivari* is steadily looking up. The last number is a very fair specimen. The letter press and the smaller caricatures are generally good. The cartoon representing the Famine policy of Sir George Cooper though well conceived is not quite successful. The picture of Sir Richard Temple, *Primitia in Indis* (cretione), dancing with the beauty of Bombay, with the *Bombay Gazette* on the violin and the *Times of India* at the drum and other ducks flying about, is exquisite.

WE HAVE much pleasure in inserting the following letter from our Assam Correspondent:

Of all the officers of Government the district officers are the most jealous of newspaper criticisms and there are good reasons for it. The district officers have vast powers and not unfrequently are they tempted to abuse it. Hence it is they dislike the light of publicity.

Mr. H. Luttman-Johnson, officiating Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, has set a noble example in this matter. He has issued orders to his office to supply the Editor of the *Srihatta Prokasa*, such items of information regarding the district as would be acceptable to the public either for discussion or otherwise. The Editor is also invited to apply for information on particular questions he may think fit which may be given him at the discretion of the Deputy Commissioner.

We hope other district officers will follow Mr. Johnson's good example.

A PUBLIC meeting was held in Dacca in honor of the late Raja Kalinarain Roy Bahadur. It was resolved that a biography of the lamented deceased should be published at the expense of the public. We fully sympathize with the movement.

THE LONDON CORRESPONDENT of the *Times of India* has the following about the Poona petition to the House of Commons respecting the Vernacular Press Act:

"The Poona petition to the House of Commons regarding the Indian Native Press law was very nearly being rejected on Tuesday, and probably would have met that fate but that its presentation was in Mr. Gladstone's hands. In submitting it Mr. Gladstone said it contained a long and able argument against the Press law, and it closed with a prayer that your honorable House, as the only authority to whom Her Majesty's subjects can appeal for redress and protection against arbitrary acts of authority in India, will not only condemn the measure which forms the subject of the present appeal, but will also make the further continuance of the present policy impossible, and ensure the progressive freedom of Her Majesty's Indian subjects, by enlarging the representative element in the Legislative Council of India, and by directing the adoption of such other measures as may seem fit to your honorable House. But Mr. Gladstone regretted to be obliged to state that while in substance this was a regular petition, concluding with a prayer to the House, there were two irregularities in it,—first, it was called "a memorial;" and secondly, the signers called themselves "memorialists." These were, however, manifestly clerical errors, and he desired the Speaker's opinion on it, begging that the petition might not be rejected on account of these errors. If the Speaker permitted, and the House concurred, he proposed to strike out the errors and present the petition in the usual manner. The Speaker examined the document and said that although termed a memorial, it was substantially a petition, properly worded, and concluding with a prayer; and he was of opinion that the document might be received if the House thought proper. The Chancellor of the Exchequer amiably added that he was entirely of Mr. Gladstone's opinion; and consequently the petition was received and ordered to lie on the table. The moral of the incident is that Indian petitioners would do well to abide by the strict and punctilious etiquette of the House in these matters; or they will not always escape so cheaply as our friends in Poona."

SATURDAY, 20TH JULY.

IT IS REPORTED that the proprietorship of the *Pioneer* has passed into the hands of a Lahore barrister and a party of military men intimately connected with the *Civil and Military Gazette*. A change will, it is said, be made in the editorship, the Revd. Julius Robinson possibly returning to India to resume the reins.

THE ENGLISHMAN says that "it is a matter of considerable surprise to visitors at the Paris Exhibition to find that the Indian department is practically confined to the articles exhibited by the Prince of Wales." But the reason is obvious. Indian exhibitors are so perfunctorily treated that many we have heard are reluctant to send their goods. Not unfrequently did they receive them back in a damaged condition, sometimes some parts were missing, and so they seem to think that they had better keep themselves out of European exhibitions.

THE FOLLOWING extracts from the evidence of Balcrishna Sudasew, one of the principal witnesses for the prosecution in Mr. Bedford's case at Sholapore, may be taken as an example of the immense moral influence the name of Crawford possesses in that part of the Bombay presidency:

"The police said I would be transported for life if I would not say according to their instructions, as Mr. Crawford, the Magistrate was the brother of Mr. Crawford, the Commissioner. The police handcuffed me and compelled me to walk through the town bare-headed. They said if I made a statement according to what they wanted, they would get me pardoned."

WE HAVE RECEIVED the prospectus of a new weekly paper to be called the *Anglo-Indian Guardian* and published in this town from the 3rd proximo. Apart from its general character as a political, social and literary organ, its distinctive objects will be to advocate the legitimate claims of the Eurasian and domiciled Anglo-Indian community, and to promote the interests of the Uncovenanted Civil Service of India. It is time that the East Indian community should have an organ of their own. We wish the projectors every success.

THE DEATHS in Calcutta during the week ending 13th July numbered 203, of which 20 were from small-pox, 74 from fever, 11 from cholera, 25 from diarrhoea and dysentery, 20 from tetanus and the rest from other causes. Ten children were still-born and three persons died from old age. The deaths among non-Asiatics and mixed races were 10, of which one was from small-pox, 3 from fever, 2 from dysentery, and three from other causes. This was a healthy week in the town.

BABU GOPALLAL MITTER, late Deputy Magistrate, is employing his time usefully. He has written a book, which he calls *Monohur Durpan* or the Mirror of Enchantment. Part II. is before us. It contains lessons on Chemistry with 300 examples of experiments compiled and translated into Bengali from various standard English works. These examples are useful, and appertain to the chemistry of common life. The Bengali, who does not know English, may acquire much useful information from this book and also apply it to useful purposes.

HIS MAJESTY the King of Saxony has honored our distinguished countryman, Dr. Sourendra Mohun Tagore with the "insignia of Commander of the first class of the Order of Albrecht." The following is a copy of the letter patent:

We, Albert by the Grace of God, King of Saxony, &c. &c., have designed to grant to the Rajah Tagore at Calcutta, in acknowledgment of his merits in the advancement of studies in Sanskrit, and especially in the knowledge of ancient Indian Music, the Insignia of Commander of the 1st Class of the Order of Albrecht, and for that purpose the present Decree has been issued signed by Our Own Hand and under Our Royal Seal.

Dresden the 10th May 1878.

Decree of the grant of the Insignia of Commander of the 1st Class of the Order of Albrecht to Rajah Tagore.

(Sd.) ALBERT.

(Countersigned) J. P. VON FALKENSTEIN.

We have seen the insignia, which are exquisite specimens of art.

THE BOARD of Oriental Studies at Cambridge have proposed a reform in its curriculum, which will be a welcome relief to those undergraduates, who are natives of India. For Latin and Greek they are to be permitted to substitute Latin and Sanskrit or Arabic.

AT THE last Oxford Commemoration the honorary degrees of D. C. L. were conferred on Lord Napier of Magdala, Lord Hartington, Sir Michael Hicks Beach, and Sir James Stephen.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals:—1. Sir George Couper and the Famine in the North-West Provinces—(being a revised reprint of certain Letters and Articles on the subject in the

*Statesman and Friend of India*). 2. The Employment of Indian Troops in Europe. A Paper read before the East India Association. By George Foggo, Esq., late member of the Bombay Legislative Council. 3. Mahabharat with a Bengali translation in prose Parts 22, 23 and 24 published by Protapchunder Roy and distributed gratis. 4. Birendra Choritan in Sanskrit verse, Part I. 5. The Indian Magazine, a monthly journal conducted by the Bhowanipore Students' Association and edited by the Revd. J. P. Ashton, M. A. For February and March, 1878. 6. The Mirror of Enchantment. By Gopallal Mitra, late Deputy Magistrate. 7. Remarks on the Transfer of Property Bill. By Pandit Srikrishna, Pleader, Judicial Commissioner's Court, Oudh. 8. Messrs. Thacker Spink and Co.'s Monthly Circular. 9. Bharatia Granthabali, By Rajendra Natha Dutta. 10. Kusama Kalapa.

THE MUSJIDBARI STREET Adultery Case was before the Magistrate to-day. His Worship justly ruled that the case should be heard with closed doors. The prurient public may feel disappointed, but the respectable portion of the community will doubtless appreciate the Magistrate's feeling in the matter.

EXAMINE REPORT dated the 19th instant shows for North West Provinces and Oudh decrease during preceding week of numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief amounting to 31,676.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week :

London, 15th July.—Sir Garnet Wolseley, Colonel Brackenbury, and Staff have started for Cyprus. Colonel Groves is Chief of Staff, and Colonel Baker Russell, Military Secretary. The *Simoon* has taken a company of the Royal Engineers.

15th.—A special telegram to the *Daily News* states that the stay of the Indian troops at Cyprus will be only temporary, and that it is intended to keep only a small permanent Garrison of British troops in the Island who will be assisted by a local Militia which is to be formed.

16th.—Mr. Gladstone's motion on the Vernacular Press Bill is fixed for the 23rd. In the Lords last night the Duke of Cambridge deprecated the debate on the officering of the Indian Army. His Royal Highness said he was delighted with the appearance of the Indian Contingent at Malta; the men were orderly and loyal in their behaviour, and were, in his opinion, worthy to take a position amongst any British troops. In the Commons the Under-Secretary for India said that General Richard Strachey had resigned his membership in the Council of the Secretary of State for India in consequence of replacing his brother Sir John Strachey temporarily. Lord Beaconsfield and the Marquis of Salisbury arrive in London to-day. The Conservatives are preparing ovation for Lord Beaconsfield, who has accepted an invitation to a grand banquet in his honor at the Mansion House on the 3rd of August. It is persistently reported that Austria has engaged to guarantee the security of the European provinces of Turkey, the Porte agreeing to the Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

16th.—The following is a summary of treaty to be presented to Parliament which was signed at Berlin on Saturday last. The treaty contains 64 articles and provides for a Provisional Russian administration and Russian occupation of Bulgaria by 50,000 men the same to terminate in nine months. As regards the Bulgarian fortresses, they are to be razed to the ground in one year. A European Commission will organize eastern Roumelia, Austria will occupy and administer Bosnia and Herzegovina, but the term of occupation is not fixed. Roumania, Servia and Montenegro obtain independence, the tribute payable to the Porte being capitalized. Servia, Montenegro and Bulgaria pay a quota of the Turkish debt. The Porte engages strictly to apply to Crete the constitutional law of 1863 and the fullest Religious liberty is enjoined everywhere. With respect to Armenia the Porte cedes with Batoum, Kars and Ardahan, the territory between the former and the Russo-Turkish frontier and a curved line drawn from Makrialos on the Black Sea including Olbi, Bardus and Kajisman to the Russo-Turkish frontier excluding Rayazed and the Alashgerd valley. The treaties of 1856 and 1871 are to be maintained except where the Berlin treaty modifies them. Liberal leaders of both houses of Parliament have given notice of their intention to challenge the policy of the Government. The Indian Budget will be laid before the House on the 23rd instant.

16th.—Lords Beaconsfield and the Marquis of Salisbury arrived at Charing Cross station this afternoon, where they were received by a very large and enthusiastic crowd. In reply to an address presented at Dover, Lord Beaconsfield said the country was equally indebted to the Marquis of Salisbury for the results of the Congress, which he hoped would reflect honour on their sovereign and country, and ensure its prosperity, and maintain European peace—a consideration which he said, was never absent from his thoughts. In the Commons, Sir Stafford Northcote said the Anglo-Turkish Convention gives England rights to interfere between the Sultan and his subjects beyond those allowed in the treaties of 1856, and 1871.

17th.—A despatch from the Marquis of Salisbury to the Cabinet enclosing the text of the Berlin Treaty, enters into an elaborate defence of the treaty refutes the charge brought against the Government that the Policy set forth in the circular of the 1st April has been abandoned and points out the substantial concessions made by Russia, and the extensive territory restored to Turkey. Owing to the abatement in the Russian demands the Congress inserted a protocol to the conference that the payment of the indemnity be deferred for an indefinite period. The despatch adds that the Anglo-Turkish convention obviates all dangers of further Russian conquests in Asia, and that it gives Turkey a chance which is probably her last of security and prosperity, all depends on her sincere execution of reforms.

18th.—Sir Garnet Wolseley on arrival at Malta will be instructed to administer the Government of the Island of Cyprus as a dependency of the Crown. The Frigate *Urydice* has been floated. There has been much popular excitement in Italy over the results of Congress, and the occupation of Cyprus by the English. The despatch of the Turkish reinforcements to the Turko-Grecian frontier has been postponed. The English harvest prospects are favourable.

18th.—In the House of Lords this evening Lord Beaconsfield made his statement with reference to the policy followed by the Government at Congress, and vindicated the treaty of Berlin, which, he said, had restored to Turkey large territory with a frontier capable of being defended. As regards Bosnia he said the care of it had been entrusted to Austria because of

the anarchy usually prevailing in that province and the consequent over-strain on the Turkish resources. He defended the treatment of Greece, which had asked for the cession of Thessaly, Epirus and Crete, and had been refused because the object of Congress was to concentrate and condense Turkey, and not to partition it. His Lordship then said that the wresting of Batoum and Kars from Russia would have entailed war between that country and England, and that the object of such war did not justify the step being taken. England took Cyprus instead of Syria and Egypt to avoid giving offence to France. The enormous English interests in the East must be defended. Government, he said, disliked needless responsibility, but would shrink from the graver responsibility of handing to their successors a diminished and weakened empire. There was room for both Russia and England in Asia, and the room we require must be secure. Mr. George Milner is appointed head of the finance department in Cyprus.

19th.—In the House of Lords last night Lord Derby declared that the reason of his tendering his resignation as Foreign Minister was in consequence of the resolution of the Cabinet to seize Cyprus and a position on the Syrian Coast by an expedition to be despatched secretly from India, whether the Porte gave its assent or not. Lord Salisbury, in the name of the Ministers, flatly denied the truth of Lord Derby's statement, upon which Lord Derby reaffirmed what he had said. Sir Garnet Wolseley, together with 7,000 troops, has sailed from Malta for Cyprus. Six British ironclad frigates and three gun vessels have been ordered to assemble at Cyprus. The conservative journals approve of Lord Beaconsfield's statement in the House of Lords last night, though they say it was too apologetic.

Berlin 14th July.—Congress finished yesterday. The treaty has been signed, but not yet officially published. The *Times* published an incomplete, unauthentic version, the articles relative to the Dardanelles and the Asiatic Provinces of Turkey being wanting.

17th.—Count Stolberg has assumed general representation in place of Prince Bismark in accordance with the law of the 16th March.

Bucharest 15th July.—The Roumanian Government have accepted the Dobruza schia for Bessarabia.

Constantinople 15th July.—The Insurrectionary movement in the Rhodope Mountains has collapsed. Large Turkish reinforcements and two Turkish Ironclads are being sent to the Turco-Grecian Frontier.

#### INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

LECTURE by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, to-morrow Evening at 7½ P. M.

Subject: Action of Electric Currents upon each other.

LECTURE by the Very Rev. Father Lafont, S. J., on Thursday the 25th Inst. at 7½ P. M.

Subject: Chromatic effects of Plane Polarisation.

LECTURE by Babu Tara Prasanna Roy on Saturday the 27th Inst. at 4½ P. M.

Subject: Compounds of Nitrogen and Oxygen.

## The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, JULY 22, 1878.

### THE UNIVERSITY SCANDAL.

NOTWITHSTANDING the protest of an honorable and learned Judge of the High Court against the use of the word "scandal" in reference to the attitude assumed by the Medical Faculty towards Dr. Sircar on account of his election as a member of that Faculty, we cannot help reiterating the word in characterizing the proceedings of the Faculty. Here is a native gentleman, who after a brilliant career in the Medical College, took the degree of M. D. in the Calcutta University; possessed of an enquiring mind he investigates the truths of the science to the study and practice of which he has dedicated himself; he discovers certain principles and truths in homœopathy, which he boldly embraces and makes no secret of his convictions; he is not a blind adherent of the new faith, he declares that he will receive the truth whenever and wherever found; but the medical profession, instead of taking pride in such a product of their own tuition, place themselves in direct antagonism to him; they do not acknowledge fellowship with him in their professional avocations; of course Dr. Sircar has suffered pecuniarily from this ostracism, but he values more the freedom of conscience in science than the smiles of his bigoted brethren; strange to say that these not content with their hostility to him in the exercise of their profession have carried their antipathy against him to the neutral ground of the University, and voted his expulsion from the Medical Faculty, of which he was lately elected a member by an unanimous vote of the Senate. If this is not intolerance, we do not know what it is, and if such intolerance in a body of educated and enlightened gentlemen is not a public scandal, then we do not understand the public feeling.

That it is considered a public scandal is sufficiently evident from the utterances of the public press. We keep out of sight the opinions of the Native press, for it may be accused of interested advocacy on the ground that the victim of the intolerance of the medicos is a native, though the question involved is not a race question nor a personal question, but one of principle. The Anglo-Indian press is perfectly disinterested in the matter, and the frank and uncompromising opinions expressed by our contemporaries of the *Statesman* and the *Englishman* not only do honor to themselves but to the nation, to which they belong. In a series of ringing articles on the subject the *Statesman* comes to the conclusion that the Resolution of the Medical Faculty "is a revelation of bigotry unworthy of the gentlemen, who form the elite of the medical profession of Calcutta." The *Englishman*, though brief, is not the less emphatic. It says, "thoroughly worthy of the dark ages, or of the worst developments of trade unionism, was the motion made by Dr. Partridge in the Senate of the Calcutta University on Saturday, to remove a brother professional and graduate of the University from the Faculty of Medicine simply because he had adopted a different theory of therapeutics to that entertained by the bulk of the profession." It is thus evident that the thinking and impartial public do regard the proposed expulsion of Dr. Sircar from the Medical Faculty a gross scandal.

Two attempts have been made in the columns of the *Englishman* to defend the action of the Medical Faculty, one by Col. Tennant and the other by A. M. M. D., a signature, which sufficiently identifies the learned and distinguished gentleman, who bears that name. Dr. A. M. gives a running history of Homœopathy, and seeks to persuade his readers to believe that the homœopaths were all intolerance and the allopaths all toleration. He says, "medical men (of the orthodox school we believe) have not sought otherwise than by a legitimate assertion of disapproval and disbelief, and by the inevitable consequences of these feelings as regards professional association, to extinguish the sect." We do not wish to rake up old stories of allopathic bigotry and intolerance against homœopathy; nothing is farther from our object than to fan the existing flame by exposing the mutual criminations and recriminations of the two classes of doctors; they can wash their own linens just as they like. It is however worth noting that Col. Tennant, who has been supporting the doctors, says, "the spirit in which homœopathy is treated is worthy of the religious persecutors of all ages," and the same spirit seems to actuate the Medical Faculty in resisting the election of Dr. Sircar. Col. Tennant, however, suggests a difficulty in the matter, which if true ought to reconcile all parties. He says that the schools of medicine affiliated to the Calcutta University follow one system of medicine, and the teachers profess the same system. The interests of the pupils of this school of medicine require that their degrees should be widely recognized. Now, the medical profession in India is governed by a medical body in England, "who have joined in the trade pledge to refuse to recognize homœopathy and its professors." It is said that the body of the profession in England would excommunicate the Faculty here, did they admit a homœopath as a member, and thus nullify the degrees of the University in England. Hence it is, Col. Tennant argues, the Medical Faculty cannot associate with Dr. Sircar, a professed homœopath. Now, the gallant gentleman seems to be not aware that a movement has been set on foot in England for promoting professional fellowship between allopaths and homœopaths, and this does not indicate that they would be so intolerant as to "excommunicate" the medical men in India for sitting with a homœopath in an educational assembly for deliberations. Dr. Sircar has taken the highest medical honors in the University, and can it be for a moment contended that he is not fit to advise the Faculty in the performance of their duties? And what are these duties? The University is an examining body; it selects subjects and books; it has nothing to do with the mode of teaching, and is not Dr. Sircar competent to assist in the selection of books and subjects and in ap-

praising the value of study in each. Supposing that he will thrust his homœopathic views upon his colleagues, Col. Tennant admits that he will be in a hopeless minority. What injury can he then do to the interests of the University? But is he not competent, if he chooses, to air his peculiar views without being a member of the Medical Faculty? All the proceedings of the Medical Faculty as a matter of form must receive the imprimatur of the Senate, and as a member of the Senate is he precluded from expressing his opinion? If not, is it consistent to exclude him from the Medical Faculty? If he is excluded because he is a homœopath, were not Lord Lawrence, Chancellor of the University, and Sir Henry Maine, Vice-Chancellor, homœopaths? Why then take objection to Dr. Sircar? Is it the old story of the crime of color?

Dr. A. M., who is the champion of the allopathic confederation, however, wholly cuts the ground under their feet. He writes:

"To call the medical profession of the present day allopaths is to bestow upon them a nickname which does not represent either their faith or system. We neither profess nor adhere to any species of *pathy*. We pursue our science and act by inductive methods, and do not bind ourselves by terms or laws which have no existence in nature. Our therapeutical principles, and these are growing in number and precision, may be empirical,—they certainly are imperfect and provisional,—but we refuse to accept a delusive finality through a spurious law of any sort."

And what does Dr. Sircar say? In his letter to the Senate he quotes the great Father of Medicine himself, who laid it down, that "diseases are sometimes cured by contraries, sometimes by similars, and sometimes by medicines which have neither similitude nor antagonism." Hufeland, the leader of the profession in his day, said, that "homœopathy is worthy of consideration, and is not to be rejected, but to be made use of as a peculiar method of treatment, subsidiary to the higher principles of rational medicine." The great Doctor Liston wrote, "I believe in the homœopathic doctrines to a certain extent." Dr. Lander Brunton is of the same opinion. He says, "large doses of digitalis render the pulse extremely rapid, but moderate ones slow it. In this instance its moderate administration when there is a rapid pulse is homœopathic treatment, and this has sometimes been beneficial." Such is the opinion of some of the most eminent allopathic doctors, and how can homœopathy be called an irrational system? The inductive method, on which Dr. A. M. relies, is conspicuous in the homœopathic system; in fact it constitutes its very essence. If as Dr. A. M. says, "we neither profess nor adhere to any species of *pathy*," with what consistency can Dr. Sircar be excluded because he professes and does the same thing? Dr. Sircar thus concludes his letter to the Senate:

"I feel confident that I have adduced sufficient evidence to show that the recognition and practice of Homœopathy in its cardinal doctrines, as one of the methods of treatment, date as far back as the days of Hippocrates, and that some at least of the great men of the profession, whom the profession could never brand as homœopaths, have avowed their faith in it to that extent. I have been guilty of no other sin. Without retracting an iota of my faith in the system, as expressed by me in unmistakable language, times without number, I would still repudiate the exclusive and sectarian name of homœopath applied to me. I claim the title of physician, and I claim the right thereunto appertaining, namely, liberty of reason to search after truth, and liberty of conscience to acknowledge truth whenever and wherever found. In my hard struggles as a physician, as a practitioner of the most difficult art on earth, I have only endeavoured to exercise that right. If the Medical Faculty should declare that I have thereby forfeited their confidence, I should respectfully beg to relieve the Senate of further responsibility in the matter, and ask them to remove my name at once from the Faculty."

Nothing could be more frank and honorable than this confession of faith of Dr. Sircar. He too like Dr. A. M. is no blind adherent to any "pathy," and does such a confession constitute a professional disqualification in him and not in Dr. A. M. and his colleagues? Dr. Sircar has shewn a most generous confidence in his professional brethren by appealing to their better judgment, but we do not think he has acted wisely by relieving the Senate of their responsibility by tendering his conditional resignation, that is to say that he would resign if the Medical Faculty should declare him unworthy of their confidence. Human nature is human nature, and although we have high respect for the members of the Faculty, some of whom we are proud to acknowledge are our personal friends, we are afraid that they are not likely to eat their own words. They

were fully aware of the facts which Dr. Sircar has urged in his letter to the Senate, when they came to their original decision, and yet they allowed their prejudices to blind their judgment. If they should adhere to it, then Dr. Sircar must resign, and he then loses the advantage of an expression of opinion of an impartial tribunal like the Senate. This is a species of self-sacrifice, with which we are sorry to say we cannot sympathize. Dr. Sircar has of course acted from the best of feelings, but will the Medical Faculty reciprocate it? Why should he beat a retreat because his professional adversaries might prove relentless? He ought to have left the whole issue in the hands of the Senate.

#### THE INDEBTEDNESS OF THE DECCAN RYOTS.

THE Government of India has not thought fit to circulate to the press the report of the Commission on the indebtedness of the Deccan ryots, but the speech of Mr. F. R. Cockerell in introducing the Bill for the relief of those ryots gives a lucid summary of the recommendations of the Commission and the local Government. The reader is already acquainted with the history of the Deccan riots of 1875. They extended over twenty-two villages in the Ahmednagar district and eleven villages in Poona, but were attended with no loss of life, nor with indiscriminate destruction of property; the operations of the rioters were confined to a settlement of their accounts with their creditors, and they attacked, burned and plundered the houses and property of the latter, ransacking every place where the bonds which they had been forced to execute were likely to be kept. Mr. Cockerell remarks that the fact of the extreme indebtedness of a large section of the agriculturists in the districts in which the investigation was made has been conclusively established: but this general state of debt, though it had assumed much larger dimensions of late years, was not of recent origin; it had existed in some degree almost from the time of the conquest of the Deccan and its annexation to British territory. This does not of course speak much in favour of the effects of British rule in that part of the country, but we will come to it by and bye. The causes of this extreme indebtedness have been recorded in much detail in the report of the Commission, and the possible effect of the Government revenue assessments and the state of the law applicable to the relations of creditor and debtor, in conducing to the embarrassments of the agriculturists, formed the subject of enquiry and discussion. Foremost amongst the causes of the existing complications in the opinion of the Commission were (1) unfavourable conditions of soil and climate; (2) increase of population in excess of any increase in the local supply of means of supporting such population; (3) the obligations of ancestral debt, and (4) the money-lender's custom of inordinately enhancing the original debt by charges of compound interest at high rates, and constant exaction from the debtor of fresh bonds or other instruments of obligation. An additional cause of the general increase of debt amongst the ryots of late years was the greater facility of obtaining credit on inadequate security, brought about through the more active prosecution of the money-lending business by a lower class of soukars. As might be expected the pressure of the revenue settlement upon the condition of the ryots is very lightly touched upon. Mr. Cockerell is, however, constrained to say, "the report of the Commission, whilst it did not show that the assessment of the land fixed at the latest revision of settlements pressed with undue harshness upon the ryots, expressed the opinion that, in the peculiar conditions of the Deccan as regards climate and the productive capacity of the soil, the fixity of the Government revenue demand operated adversely to the direction of keeping the cultivator free from the need of recourse to borrowing. A more elastic system under which the demand would better correspond in point of time with his own realization of profit from the land, without at the same time introducing too great an extent the element of uncertainty as to the amount of the demand, would, it was represented, be more suitable to the exigencies of the

case." Two draft-bills were submitted by the Commission. The first draft made provision for (1) the appointment of public notaries by whom all instruments of obligation to be executed by ryots in favour of the soukar might be written and registered; (2) the enforcement of the practice of granting receipts for money-payments and annual statements of account or pass-books on the requisition of the borrower, and (3) declaring the effect of the registration of limitation fixed by the present law in respect of contracts from three to six years—equivalent to registration under the Indian Registration Act. The second Bill embraced (1) the abolition of imprisonment for debt; (2) the exemption of the judgment-debtor's necessities in execution of a decree; (3) the restriction of the power of directing the attachment and sale of immovable property in execution of a decree for money, to the District Courts; (4) the introduction of rules for securing a preliminary investigation as to title where the sale of a judgment-debtor's interest in any immovable property was ordered by a Civil Court, and (5) the prevention of agreements, without adequate consideration, made by a judgment-debtor in favour of his creditor, under the pressure of the issue of the Court's process in the execution of a decree against him. Sir Phillip Wodehouse before retiring reviewed the report of the Commission. His Excellency accepted the general conclusions of the Commission in regard to the excessive indebtedness of a large proportion of the ryots in the districts to which the enquiry had extended, and the causes of it, but did not consider that any case had been made out against the existing land assessments or the system under which the Government revenue was realized. Sir Richard Temple has since recorded his opinion on the report of the Commission. His Excellency makes the following proposals for legislative enactment:

1st. (a) The enforced examination by the Civil Court of the merits of every claim for which it was asked to give a decree, whether any defence was made to such claim or not.

(b) The disallowance of the obligation of any person to discharge ancestral debts, unless such person in the Court's presence expressed his readiness to accept responsibility for such debts.

(c) The disallowance of the compound interest included in any claim, as well as all interest in excess of a sum equal to the principal represented in such claim.

2nd. The declaration of the insolvency of any debtor upon his personal application, otherwise than after his arrest in execution of a decree against him.

3rd. The prevention of the sale of any land by order of a Civil Court in satisfaction of a decree for money, unless the land had been specifically pledged as security for the debt and the contract under which it was so pledged had been reduced to writing, and the written instrument embodying the same duly registered.

The Government of India does not quite go with the Government of Bombay; Mr. Cockerell's Bill contains the following proposals:

1. To empower Courts having insolvency jurisdiction to declare a person to be insolvent on his personal application, although he might not have been arrested in execution of a decree.

2. To limit the power of the Civil Court in respect of the sale of immovable property in satisfaction of a decree for money to cases in which the property was specifically pledged as security for the claim decreed.

3. To enforce the reduction into writing of all contracts so pledging immovable property, and the registration of the instruments embodying such contracts.

So far as these proposals go we concur. We think in the interest of the agricultural population small holdings should not be held liable to sale. On the principle that the tools of the artisan and the agricultural implements of the agriculturists are protected, the land of the ryot should be similarly protected. If his land goes he has no means of living. Let the mahajans or soukars know that they will have no hold upon the ryot's land, they will be careful in charging exorbitant rates of interest. But this is not enough. It is the heavy assessment upon the land, which clogs the springs of industry. It has been sufficiently proved by the facts elicited by the Deccan Riots Commission that as the land in the Deccan is poor and lies fallow every

third year and is subject to frequent drought, the riots cannot bear the heavy assessments imposed upon them. A permanent settlement of the State demand at moderate rates is to our mind the only specific for the amelioration of the condition of the peasantry of the Deccan. We hope the Government will not shirk its duty in this respect.

### THE BENGAL JAILS.

The greatest merit of Dr. Lethbridge's report on the jails of Bengal for 1877 is its brevity. That brevity is the soul of wit is a proverb, the wisdom of which was not realized by some of his predecessors. Their reports literally weighed some seers, though the matter was light enough. But if Dr. Lethbridge's report is concise and compact, it is not the less interesting. He gives sufficient information under the different heads of his report. We will not touch upon all heads, but notice a few salient points. It appears that the total number of Jail population in 1871, was 86,542, in 1872, 104,022, in 1873, 106,143, in 1874, 123,245, in 1875, 114,309, in 1876, 118,352, and in 1877, 110,921. Dr. Lethbridge says that the figures of 1871 represent the normal jail population of Bengal under the old regime. In 1872 a special policy was inaugurated, which resulted in a remarkable and steady increase in the following years. This was the policy of Sir George Campbell. During the latter half of 1877 this policy was in a great measure reversed, and there has been a rapid decrease in numbers. The tendency in recent years to an increase has not only been stopped, but a remarkable movement in the opposite direction has set in, which as the latest returns for the present year show still continues. The population on the last day of 1877 was 18,153, as compared with 21,265 and 21,282 in the two previous years. The falling-off in the number of prisoners means so much gain to the cause of the liberty of the subject, and we ought to feel grateful to Sir Ashley Eden for it. The new policy is considerate, humane, and consistent with sound principles of Police administration and jail discipline. The proportion of Hindus and Mahomedans to the total population is nearly the same as it has been for some years past, that is, about 55 and 39 per cent. respectively. There is, however, a marked increase in the number of Europeans and Eurasians imprisoned during the year, which requires explanation:

|              | 1871. | 1872. | 1873. | 1874. | 1875. | 1876. | 1877. |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Europeans .. | 319   | 494   | 453   | 420   | 556   | 483   | 698   |
| Eurasians .. | 187   | 186   | 56    | 81    | 84    | 66    | 117   |
| Total ..     | 506   | 680   | 509   | 511   | 640   | 549   | 783   |

Dr. Lethbridge thus accounts for this increase: "The large increase in the number of Europeans in the Presidency Jail is accounted for by the increased number of ships in the port and the larger number of minor offences committed by sailors. The length of sentences awarded point to this being the true explanation. No less than 68 per cent. of the total number were sentenced to terms not exceeding a month, and 22 per cent. to terms above one month and not exceeding six months." No satisfactory explanation can be offered for the fact that the Eurasian population of our jails has nearly doubled within the last year. The increase in crime may perhaps be due to the high prices, which have prevailed during the year. As a rule the Eurasians who come to jail belong to a class with fixed and very limited incomes. With regard to jail discipline Dr. Lethbridge says: "Although a great improvement has taken place within the last few years, jail discipline, as it is understood in England, is, with few exceptions, still unknown in Bengal. It has been usual to attribute much of this want of discipline to the material with which the work has to be carried out. But I am satisfied, from some personal experience in the matter, that the material is good enough if we could only get the knowledge and energy to utilize it. Where Superintendents and Jailors are ignorant of the details of jail management, it is not to be expected that those under them can arrive at those details by intuition, much less carry them out. Judging from applications I receive for Jailorships, it would appear that when a man fails in

other walks of life he considers that he is at least fitted for a Jailorship. Why or how this idea came to be so generally prevalent, is more than I can undertake to explain for the training and qualities we require of a Jailor are not usually found in 'rolling stones.'" Dr. Lethbridge accordingly proposes to give preference to special knowledge and experience. He justly remarks: "Increased number of petty offences and a decrease in corporal punishment may be taken as a pretty good indication of how a jail is being managed. There are some officers who consider that petty offences are not worth inquiring into, much less recording. This is a serious mistake, which generally leads to the Jailor settling these matters with his stick. Nothing is more demoralizing and subversive of good management than procedure of this kind, as it ends in the Superintendent not knowing in the least what is going on in the jail." We are glad to see that this procedure is to be put an end to.

We now turn to jail expenditure. The cost of dieting the prisoners increased last year. We observe that the average price paid for the chief articles of diet in the past three years has been as follows:—

|             | 1877.  | 1876.  | 1875.  |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|
|             | Rs. A. | Rs. A. | Rs. A. |
| Rice .. ..  | 2 8    | 2 1    | 2 4    |
| Attah .. .. | 3 9    | 3 1    | 3 9    |
| Dal .. ..   | 2 10   | 2 5    | 3 0    |
| Meat .. ..  | 7 5    | 6 14   | 7 4    |
| Fish .. ..  | 6 8    | 6 15   | 6 6    |
| Salt .. ..  | 4 12   | 4 13   | 4 14   |

As each labouring Bengali prisoner consumes 5 maunds 28 seers of rice in the year, an increase of 7 annas a maund in the price of rice represents an increase of his cost for the year of Rs. 2-8; and as regards labouring Behar prisoners, who are given 3 maunds and 29 seers of rice and 2 maunds 34 seers of attah in the year, an increase of 7 annas and 8 annas, respectively, in the price of these articles adds Rs. 3 to the annual expenditure. The increase of the average cost of a prisoner's diet from Rs. 26-1 in 1876 to Rs. 28-7 in 1877 is thus fairly accounted for. But this explanation appears weak when comparing the average cost of 1875 with that of 1877; the difference is Rs. 2 per prisoner, whereas, except for rice, prices were much the same in these years. The lower average in 1875 was partly due to the fact that large stocks of grain had been stored for use during the famine of 1874, of which there was a considerable balance in store at the beginning of 1875 and used during that year. The cost of European prisoners per head at the Presidency jails was Rs. 106 2-5 and at Hazareebagh Rs. 135-4-11. The charges for clothing were very high in Patna, Sarun, Chumparun, Durbhunga, Malda, Pubna, Lohardugga, and Singbhoom. The Inspector-General explains that in Sarun and Chumparun new blankets and blanket-koortas were provided, and that in the other jails a large supply of clothing had to be procured to provide against the drain which the stock had to bear owing to the frequent transfers of prisoners to central jails. This explanation, however, is hardly satisfactory. The jails which head the list this year have for some years shown a heavy expenditure on account of clothing. The average of the past four years gives Rs. 5-1 in Pubna and Rs. 3-15 in Malda against Rs. 2-4, in Bankoora; Patna spent Rs. 4-2, Sarun Rs. 4-1, Chumparun Rs. 4-5 against Rs. 2-12 in Gya, and the charges were Rs. 5-5 in Lohardugga and only Rs. 2-4 in Manbhoom. It would appear, the Lieutenant-Governor remarks, that in this respect as in that of diet, the tendencies of some Superintendents are unduly liberal. The results of the year's manufacturing operations show a considerable improvement on those of former years, and the average earnings of each prisoner were Rs. 17-5 against Rs. 10-5 in 1876. Still as many as 27 jails made less than Rs. 10, and 17 made less than Rs. 5 by the labour of each effective convict. Monghyr shows a loss of Rs. 2-8 per prisoner. The gross profit of the year was Rs. 2,71,700 against Rs. 1,93,000 in 1876. Of this, Alipore contributed no less than Rs. 1,43,900. The health of the prisoners during the year was not so good as in 1876. The ratio of admissions to hospital per cent. of average strength was 135-43 against 128-56 and that of the daily average number of sick was 4-03 against 3-94.

Sickness, though more general, was, however, less fatal. The death-rate, exclusive of cholera cases, was 1-23 against 1-65, and the mortality from cholera was -83 against 1-28. The diseases which caused the greatest number of deaths were dysentery and diarrhoea (33-6), cholera (16-30), chest diseases (9-4), anæmia (8-8), and phthisis scrofula (8 per cent. of the total number of deaths). Of cholera Dr. Lethbridge says: "Although during these 33 years of research, in an era of extraordinary scientific activity, and with human minds constantly directed to the subject from its terrible consequences, we have been unable to discover either the actual cause or the proper treatment of cholera, yet it would appear that with the improved condition of the people, and perhaps since the ordinary principles of hygiene were introduced, a great and beneficial change has set in at least as regards the endemic area. There are, however, some who would be disposed to think, and with reason, that cholera is after all not different from what history and experience teach us regarding other endemic and epidemic diseases, which have had their periods of insidious origin, of vigorous maturity, and of exhaustion ending in extinction." Strange to say Dr. Lethbridge makes no mention of tanks. We commend his remarks to Dr. Payne.

The Lieutenant-Governor thus concludes his Resolution on the jail report:

The Lieutenant-Governor, in conclusion, desires to place on record his belief that very great progress is now being made under the orders of Dr. Lethbridge in sound practical jail administration. Dr. Lethbridge has given unceasing attention to the improvement of his department since he assumed charge of the office, and has been ably supported by many of those who have to carry out his orders. There is no doubt very much to be done and the Lieutenant-Governor sees little hope, at least for many years to come, of a perfect system of jail administration being established. But much may be done, and has already been done, to make the most of the material with which we have to deal.

Dr. Lethbridge has begun well, and deserves credit for what he has already achieved. We hope that as he goes on he will both deserve and command success. By restoring the appointment of Inspector-General of Jails to the medical service Sir Ashley Eden has done justice to that service and shewn a proper regard to the interests of the Jail Department.

### THE FAMINE MORTALITY.

We have been favoured with copies of official papers shewing the famine mortality in certain selected tracts of the Madras and Bombay Presidencies. These papers do not afford reliable data for general deductions. But such as they are, they show a fearful rate of mortality. The Government of India in its Resolution dated the 8th June last says, "in order to ascertain how far the population of Southern India had been reduced by the famine of 1876-77, it was decided that a partial census should be taken of selected tracts in the districts where the pressure of famine had been most severe." In the Bombay Presidency nine districts had been afflicted more or less severely by famine. In each of the five districts, which had suffered most severely, two talooks were selected, one of the two was the talook which had shown the highest death-rate during the year 1877, and the other was a talook which had shown a death-rate equal to the average of the district during that year. In these ten talooks a census was taken on the 19th January 1878; no enquiry was made whether the missing people had died, or had emigrated, during the famine; the men, women and children were counted, and the totals were compared with those of the regular census of February 1872. The results were as follows:—

| District.             | Total population as per census of |         | Difference. | Percentage on original population: |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|-------------|------------------------------------|
|                       | 1872.                             | 1878.   |             |                                    |
| Sholapore (2 talooks) | 166,941                           | 143,957 | -22,984     | minus 13                           |
| Sattara (2 " )        | 144,148                           | 123,354 | -20,794     | minus 14                           |
| Kaladgi (2 " )        | 224,473                           | 187,666 | -36,807     | minus 16                           |
| Belgaum (2 " )        | 246,181                           | 226,358 | -19,823     | minus 8                            |
| Dharwar (2 " )        | 152,602                           | 148,537 | -4,065      | minus 2                            |
| 10 Talooks            | 934,345                           | 834,872 | -99,473     | minus 10½                          |

The partial census in the famine districts of Madras was taken, on the 15th March 1878, in one talook out of each of the six severely stricken districts of Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Nellore, Coimbatore and Chingleput, and in all

the nine talooks which constitute the district of Salem; a census was also taken in one talook out of each of the districts of Kistna, Trichinopoly and Tinnevely, in parts of which some distress was felt, but in parts of which the crops were saved by irrigation, and in one talook of Tanjore, throughout almost the whole of which the crops were saved by irrigation from the Cauvery river. The results of the census are given below:

| DISTRICTS.                                                                    | TALUQS.          | Loss of population. | Percentage of increase or decrease |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Salem                                                                         | Salem ...        | 117,654             | 21.3                               |
|                                                                               | Athar ...        | 21,413              | 5.4                                |
|                                                                               | Namkal ...       | 70,778              | 18.2                               |
|                                                                               | Trichengode ...  | 92,896              | 29.8                               |
|                                                                               | Oosoor ...       | 66,208              | 27.3                               |
|                                                                               | Kistnagiri ...   | 57,394              | 25.9                               |
|                                                                               | Darampuri ...    | 58,371              | 23.4                               |
|                                                                               | Tripatore ...    | 39,460              | 12.7                               |
|                                                                               | Uttengiri ...    | 45,787              | 22.6                               |
| Total ...                                                                     |                  | 569,956             | 21.1                               |
| Bellary                                                                       | Gooty ...        | 32,115              | 14.7                               |
| Kurnool                                                                       | Nandikotkur ...  | 30,161              | 21.3                               |
| Cuddapah                                                                      | Madanapalli ...  | 36,767              | 19.5                               |
| Nellore                                                                       | Gudur ...        | 32,889              | 15.4                               |
| Coimbatore                                                                    | Palladam ...     | 42,886              | 10.5                               |
| Chingleput                                                                    | Ponneri ...      | 11,230              | 8.1                                |
| Kistna                                                                        | Gudivada ...     | 4,944               | 13.2                               |
| Trichinopoly                                                                  | Museri ...       | 8,207               | 4.5                                |
| Tanjore                                                                       | Mayaveram ...    | 4,112               | 9.5                                |
| Tinnevely                                                                     | Ambasamudram ... | 3,260               | 5.5                                |
| Total of the six famine taluqs, other than those of the district of Salem ... |                  | 185,548             | 16.1                               |
| Total of Salem ...                                                            |                  | 569,956             | 21.1                               |
| Grand Total of 15 famine taluqs ...                                           |                  | 755,504             | 23.3                               |

If we take 20 per cent. as the general average, and the total of the afflicted population at 30 millions, we have the aggregate deaths at six millions! But as we have said above there are not sufficiently reliable data for a general deduction. Then we must make a fair allowance for emigration. Perhaps we are not far wrong, if we take the deaths from famine in Bombay and Madras at 4 millions!

No figures, even approximate, says the Government of India, are available to show the extent to which emigration has taken place from the famine districts. The number of emigrants by sea from the Madras Presidency to Burma, Ceylon, and elsewhere is shown by the returns from sea-ports to have been 287,482 during the 14 months of famine, as compared with 156,143, the average number for a corresponding period in ordinary times; that is to say the emigration by sea nearly doubled during the famine. But there is nothing to show how many of these emigrants came from the famine districts, or from the particular talooks in which the recent census was taken. Again, there is no available information regarding the great exodus of population from the famine districts to the neighbouring tracts in Malabar, Tanjore, Ganjam, and parts of Tinnevely and Kistna, where drought had comparatively little effect. The figures of the recent census show that the diminution among the males of ten years old and upwards has been considerably greater than among women of the same age. Sir Michael Kennedy points out that there was no reason why men should have died from famine more rapidly than women, while it is quite probable that men would migrate more readily than women. He considers that this excess diminution among men tends to show that the total number of persons migrating from the famine tracts must have been very large, and that a part at any rate of the decrease of population must be due to emigration. He shows that a part of the diminution must be due to the decrease in births; for the returns (confessedly imperfect as yet) of births for the 15 famine talooks, in which the census has now been taken, gave a decrease of 32,054 births as compared with the average of ordinary years. Further he shows that, according to the monthly returns of mortality, a great part of the loss of population was due to unusual

epidemics of cholera, small-pox and fever, which swept off in these 15 talooks 149,053 persons, compared with an average mortality of 32,909 from these diseases as returned during the years 1870-76. The Resolution of the Government of India thus concludes:

"His Excellency the Governor General in Council deduces from the figures now reviewed that there has been a lamentable decrease of the population during the two past seasons, in the selected famine-stricken tracts where the partial census has recently been taken. But there is still much uncertainty as to the numbers who have migrated, and who may return to their homes. The figures for the several talooks, both in the Bombay and in the Madras presidency, show remarkable differences between the percentages of apparent loss of population; and it is not possible to say over what proportion of the famine country the higher, the medium, or the lower percentages of decrease in the population extend. His Excellency the Viceroy in Council considers therefore that the papers now before the Government of India do not furnish means for forming a correct estimate of the famine mortality in Southern India during 1879-78."

Perhaps the real truth about famine mortality will be never known. But the enquiries which have been made tell a very sad tale. The question is whether there would have been such fearful mortality if the Government of Madras had been allowed full latitude of action. Will the Famine Commission venture to speak out?

#### THE LATE RAJA DUKHINARUNJUN MOOKERJEE AND THE PRESS.

Now that Raja Dukhinarunjun Mookerjee has been gathered to his fathers, we think we may without breach of confidence give to the public a few of his letters, which bear the stamp of his mind and heart. It is true that the letters and the replies thereto were originally not written for the public eye, but as they refer to a purely public question, it is, we think, meet that they should no longer be withheld from those for whose interest they were written. What was written as "private and confidential," is now on the death of the writer a matter of history, and her claims are imperative. Our lamented friend was admittedly the regenerator of Oudh. He was the right hand man of Sir Charles Wingfield and Sir Charles Barrow in resuscitating Oudh. But it was his misfortune to differ with Sir George Couper. The following correspondence between Raja Dukhinarunjun and Sir George show what a stout defender of the liberty of the press was the Raja:

27th December, 1872.

MY DEAR SIR GEORGE,  
As I find that what I said at the Committee Meeting at Bulrampore's house the other night has given you offence, I am most heartily sorry, and beg your pardon for it. Nothing was so distant from my thoughts as to give offence to a nobleman, for whom personally I entertain the highest esteem, who represents the Sovereign Authority in Oudh, and whom as a loyal subject it is my bounden duty to honor and obey.

Yours faithful servant,  
(Sd.) D. MOOKERJEE.

To Sir George Couper Bart—Hynt Bakh Palace, Lucknow.  
December, 29th (1872).

MY DEAR RAJA,  
The publication of the proceedings of the Talookdar's Meeting was designedly done in a manner to give a false impression of the facts to that portion of the public, which reads the *Lucknow Times*, and the Editors of those newspapers to which you sent it.

Any one reading those proceedings would suppose that I was violently attempting to force my views down your throats, while all you suppliantly asked was a hearing, which I refused to give. Now the facts, as you well know, are that for days the several questions were discussed with your Committee with the most perfect patience and courtesy on our side, and many points which you had urged were conceded; and when we found we could not induce the Vice-President to alter his view of the effect of Section 20 of the Bill, all we said was that his views and our should be fully and dispassionately laid before the Legislature for its final decision.

While these discussions were taking place, an article appeared in your organ accusing us of insidiously inserting the small end of a wedge with the view of depriving you of your rights on a future occasion. I did tell the President that under the circumstances I took umbrage at the line of argument adopted by your representative, and he mentioned the fact at your Meeting, upon which you rose and said, you had read the article, that there was nothing disrespectful in it, nor any thing at which any one could reasonably take offence, that is, you are of opinion, that a gentleman has no right to be offended, if informed publicly, that he is insidiously endeavoring to carry out a measure with the view of perpetrating a base act of treachery against a body of his friends at some future time.

It seems to me, that this conduct on your part was not only unworthy of a gentleman, but altogether inconsistent with your professions of being a friend of this administration. But you say, you are sorry, and a man can say no more than that, and I am therefore willing to forgive the past, and forget it if I can.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sd.) GEORGE COUPER.

Raja Dukhinarunjun Mookerjee, Bahadoor.

My DEAR SIR GEORGE.—Your favor of the 29th ultimo duly reached me. I am much obliged to you for your accepting my apology. During the 14 years that I have sojourned in Oudh, I never heard or knew you to be otherwise than generous and outspoken.

My remarks at the meeting which gave you offence, were as follows: "I had read the *Lucknow Times*, and had seen nothing said on behalf of the Committee except the objections submitted to the Chief Commissioner to the Bill; and this could not be construed into an offence to any member of the ruling class. The Editor has freely expressed his opinion and the responsibility of his writings could not with any propriety be laid on our shoulders, nor has he said anything which could be considered as a mark of disrespect."

Permit me to say, that the Editor of a public journal, although it be the recognised organ of a class, is not worthy of his position unless he be left unfettered to exercise his "right of thought." I need scarcely add, that to every British subject a Free Press is the palladium of liberty.

Your servant is verging on 60. He is too old now to change his ways. When Sir Charles, afterwards Lord, Metcalfe on becoming the officiating Governor General of India gave freedom to its Press at a meeting held at the Town Hall of Calcutta consisting of upwards of 5000 Native and European Citizens, your servant amongst other things spoke as follows: (he quotes from Alexander's Magazine of London) Duckenunder Mookerjee (meaning Dakhina Runjun) who is an eminent Pundit said: "As it appears that the meeting is unanimous in its opinion as to the freedom of the Press, allow me to explain, that the reason for presenting myself is because I consider that the proposed law is one of the greatest importance to the Native community on whose behalf I rise to express my sentiments. Sir Charles Metcalfe certainly deserves all the thanks that we are able to bestow on him, and I concur with Mr. Tanton, that the liberty we require is not limited liberty but absolute liberty under responsibility. Let the offender be amenable to the Law, and if he deserve punishment, a Court of Justice is the tribunal to inflict it. I am sorry that we have some cause of complaint against Lord W. Bentinck for not having passed this proposed law. It was his duty, according to his oath, if he thought the present law good, to enforce it, if not, to repeal it. The proposed law is well calculated to promote the benefit of the country; for no country so much needs a free Press as that whose Government is despotic."

In my humble opinion the Editor did not cast any censure upon you personally. When referring to the Bill, he in substance said that it would operate as the thin end of a wedge to the Talookdar rights. The Bill may operate as such, without its author intending it. The Editor attacked the Bill and not its author. The Talookdars have enough of common sense to know, that a Doctor may prescribe a medicine to his patient which may occasion his death, without the Doctor intending to kill him. In like manner, the Chief Commissioner may draft a Bill which in its results may prove harmful to us, yet he may not have intended to injure us. Thus ran my ideas, and this is the head and front of my offence.

The *Lucknow Times* is not my organ, nor do I agree with the Editor in all that he writes. I more than once had mentioned to you, that I would set up a newspaper of my own. In August last I wrote a prospectus of which the paper marked A is a copy. Though aware that my humble influence in the country could secure enough of subscribers to keep up a self-supporting paper, yet I hesitated to start it as I was awaiting the return of a military friend, who had gone to Europe on a short leave, in order to consult him on the subject. But the proposed Bill subsequently came under discussion, and the evils which we apprehended from it made me lay aside the scheme for the present.

You appear to think that I am not a friend of your administration; as in the scale of reason, facts always weigh heavier than suppositions, I submit the following. In May 1871 when you became the Chief Commissioner, on my waiting upon you at Dr. Cannon's where you were then residing, to offer my congratulatory salams, you were pleased to say "I hope you will give your moral support to my administration, to which I replied, that I would do so with all my heart." At this time there was something like a panic among the Talookdars, owing to the change of the head of this Government; and the Vice-president and myself did our best to allay it by explaining to them that you were the author of the splendid minute which formed the basis of our landed tenure and would no doubt prove a great friend to us. In this how far we have been successful, the subsequent conduct of the Talookdars has amply proved.

In July last the first and best pupil of the Canning College applied for a slight pecuniary help to the Chief Commissioner to enable him to proceed to England in order to compete in the Civil Service Examination. Owing to some hitch of which I am yet unaware the applicant could not get it. Rather than hear it said that the Administration, while it had taken all the credit of his success did not grant his prayer, I thought one of the humblest and a mere honorary member of the Oudh Commission subscribed 60£ per annum payable for 3 years to assist him.

Your friends and predecessors Sir Charles Wingfield, Sir George Yule, The Hon'ble Mr. Davis, and General Barrow, in regard to their Native policy, often consulted your servant because they could reckon upon his submitting his honest and independent opinion, and the result of his long and varied experience upon the points under consideration. This, however was not done in regard to the proposed Bill.

While on the one hand you kindly tell me, "but you say you are sorry, and a man can say no more than that, and I am therefore willing to forgive the past, and forget it, if I can," but on the other, you say, that "this conduct on your part was not only unworthy of a gentleman, but altogether inconsistent with your professions of being a friend to this administration." As the conscientious expression of my opinion has made you lay so serious a charge upon me, I can only say, that, it is unjust, unwarranted by the facts of the case, and that I never expected this from you.

You have been pleased to say, that "the publication of the proceedings of the Talookdar's meeting was designedly done in a manner to give false impression." It has been the invariable rule of our Association and that of all other such bodies to act openly and publish their proceedings. There was no ill design whatever in the publication you refer to. The acts and measures of Rulers are always freely and unreservedly discussed and commented upon in the newspapers of all countries subject to the British Crown, and I respectfully submit, that Governors should never take umbrage at any criticism upon their official acts. From the days of Lord Bentinck down to the present time, I have never seen any Governor take offence in the manner you have done.

Desiring still however to continue in terms of friendly relation with you, but finding that the manner in which I expressed my opinion at the Bulrampore house had given you offence, I sent to you an apology. In accepting it however, you have used words that I did not merit and which could not with justice be applied to me.

The wisest of us in our angry moments are apt to err I therefore now appeal to Sir George the dispassionate from Sir George the Angry. I beg that he be pleased to bear in mind that, by the grace of God, he is Ruler over the destinies of

millions, and after calmly reading the above lines, reconsider the matter, and apply the golden rule "Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you" in judging him.

To  
Sd.  
SIR GEORGE COUPER BART,  
&c. &c. &c.  
Hyat Buksh Palace, Lucknow.

And these be thy gods! Oh! Israel! Here was a representative of our gracious Sovereign, who openly insulted a liege subject, one, who had been rewarded by Government for his loyalty, who had been considered by successive Chief Commissioners of Oudh as a strong prop to the local administration, and who had expatriated himself from his own province for the benefit of Oudh, because of some sharp criticisms in a local print, supposed to be the organ of the Raja, regarding his official proceedings. Such is the sensitiveness of some of our rulers, and it is they who are entrusted with the delicate task of nurturing the liberty of the Vernacular Press. We cannot too highly admire the pluck which our countryman shewed in asserting his right to freedom of opinion.

About the time of the foregoing correspondence we received the following letter from our friend:

The great interest you take in the welfare of our common country will plead my apology for this trespass on your attention.

"The Oudh Land Revenue Bill" I regret to say, is causing us great anxiety and apprehension.—Should it be passed into law questions, which had been decided after a long and tedious course of litigation at the Revenue Courts (exercising judicial powers during the time of Settlement) would be revived and give us an amount of trouble and vexation that would render our position as landlords the most miserable in the world. It would moreover depreciate the value of land, and again make us and our tenants antagonists to each other. We had hoped that our patience and power of forbearance having been fully tested during Lord Lawrence's administration in this very matter, we and our tenants would now be let alone to help each other in improving our respective condition in peace. I appeal to you as a friend to truth and justice and a real well-wisher of Hindoosthan, and trust it shall not be in vain.

Our hope was justified by the fact of our having, at the instance of Sir Charles Wingfield, consented to the extension of the period of limitation, for the trial of suits, involving claims to underlease rights, to 12 years anterior to 1856, as by our having agreed to concede advantages to claimants to such rights which they could not by law have received from us solely with a desire to show to Government that we not only wish to act with justice, but also with humanity. The following passage in Sir John Strachey's minute on Act 26 of 1856, will explain this more clearly to you.—

"This fact at least seems to me clear, and in it I find a complete justification of the measures that were taken, that while the Taluqdars have been satisfied, the under proprietors and tenants have been placed in a position very much better than any which it was possible that the law would have assigned to them if this compromise had not been made."

I am much obliged to you for your 2 articles in the Patriot in defence of our rights, and I am amply rewarded for my poor efforts to serve Oudh, by the fact, that I have so successfully managed to keep myself on the back ground as even you say in your last issue that, "the misfortune is, that at this critical juncture the Taluqdars are without a leader." You moreover observe that "the Maharaja Sir Maun Singh, who had a genius which under native rule would have risen to the highest command, was then living, and he was not a man to give in without a struggle. Lord Lawrence listened to him, and a compromise was effected." Now the fact of the matter is this; that Oudh never wanted a leader since your humble friend settled here at the instance of Lord Canning, and it shall not need any other during his life. As to my friend the Maharaja Sir Maun Singh he simply followed my advice and carried out my suggestions. He was the cleverest man among the Oudhite Taluqdars, and I, working on his ambition used him for the good of Oudh. I even refused the K. C. S. I. in order that he may receive it. With me principle is a living reality, and has ever been so since I first commenced taking a part in the business of life. The published proceedings of the Oudh Association from 1861 to 1865, of which I beg to send a copy, for your kind acceptance, will clearly show my work to you.

This letter and the papers A. B. C. are private and confidential. It has not been written for self-laudation, but with honest pride by one, who though he cares nothing about what the world in general may in their ignorance think of him, does yet value above all other earthly treasures the sympathy and approbation of worthy and honorable men as his friend the addressee.

We have not space for other letters, but what we have given afford ample evidence of the patriotism and public spirit, which actuated our lamented friend.

#### THE AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS IN BENGAL.

The agricultural prospects in Bengal are causing anxiety. The rains have been light, irregular, and not seasonable, and cultivation is consequently retarded. On the other hand there have been floods in the Rajshaye and Kuch Behar Divisions. We give below

an abstract of the weather reports for the Bengal districts for the week ending the 13th instant:

**Burdwan.**—Light rain at intervals. More rain urgently required for transplanting the winter rice crop. Even the early crop is suffering in some parts of the district.

**Bankura.**—Weather—still showery with cloudy sky; rather more sultry towards the end of the week. More rain is wanted in the east of the district to expedite transplanting rice seedlings. Indigo manufacture has begun.

**Beerbhoom.**—Light and partial showers. The want of rain is growing serious, especially in the south of the district where the safety of the young rice in the nurseries is threatened. Heavy and general rain on the 12th did much good, but more rain before the end of the month is absolutely necessary for the crops.

**Midnapore.**—Weather—very sultry and cloudy. A heavy shower fell on the 12th, and must have done much good. More rain is still much wanted.

**Hoochly.**—Weather—sultry in the beginning of the week; since 12th showery and cloudy. *Aus dhan* and jute are doing well. Cultivation of *aman* is going on, but the young plants need rain.

**Hemrah.**—Weather—too hot and dry to be seasonable. The light rains have done no damage yet, but heavy rain is wanted both for the crop now on the ground and for transplantation. There were signs of it on the day of report (15th.)

**24 Pergunnahs.**—Weather—very hot and little rain. Ploughing is going on. The prospects of the crops are good, though rain is much wanted throughout the district.

**Nuddea.**—Weather—cloudy and sultry in the part, but cooler towards the end of the week. The heavy rain of 12th, which it is believed was general throughout, the greater part of the district, has been beneficial. More rain is wanted, however, in some parts.

**Jessore.**—Weather—cloudy, with slight showers occasionally. The rice crop is in great danger for want of rain. It is stunted and sickly. Copious rain is urgently wanted.

**Moorsshedabad.**—Weather—seasonable. The state and prospects of the crops are generally good, but more rain is said to be wanted in thana Dowlatabad.

**Dinapore.**—Weather—cloudy, with constant rain. The country is all flooded and damage done to *aus* rice and to the seedlings of *aman* rice by inundation.

**Rajshahye.**—There has been sufficient rain during the week throughout the district. It has been most beneficial to the standing crops, which are doing well. Heavy rain is required to transplant the *ropa dhan*. Early *aus* in the Nattore subdivision is being cut. The river Padma is rising rapidly.

**Rungpore.**—The rain has been unusually heavy during the week. The heavy rain on the night of 6th and on 7th flooded the station to a considerable extent, and before it could be carried off more rain fell and it is still raining. Owing to almost incessant rain and heavy floods in many parts of the district, especially along and near the banks of the large rivers, great damage has been done to the *aus* crop, and transplanting of the *aman* has to a very great extent stopped.

**Bogra.**—Weather—cool and damp, with constant rain. The standing crops are doing well, though in the east of the district some damage has been done by floods. The transplantation of *ropa dhan* continues, and *aus dhan* is being harvested.

**Pabna.**—There was heavy rain on the 12th and on the morning of the 13th instant. The weather is cool. Southerly and south-easterly winds prevail. The prospects of the crops are favourable on the whole. The jute crop is in a prospering state. The *kaon* (millet) crop just harvested has been a good one. Indigo manufacture has commenced, but the outturn is poor and the season is expected to prove a failure. The rivers have been rising very rapidly, and considerable damage to the rice and jute crops on low lands is anticipated.

**Darjeeling.**—Very heavy rain during the week. The crops are reported flourishing from all parts of the district. Indian-corn is being reaped, and a good outturn is expected.

**Julpigree.**—Heavy rain almost every day. The prospects of the crops are good. The transplanting of *huimanta dhan* is going on.

**Cooch Behar.**—Continuous rainy weather, but not such violent falls as in the previous two weeks: occasional breaks of sunshine. Much of the *bibi* must now be lost. The rivers have overflowed, and all the rice in the lowlands is submerged. The *bibi* may however, still be an average crop, as a great deal more land than usual was sown with early rice this year.

**Dacca.**—Very heavy rain on the night of the 11th instant, which will do much good in high lands. The state and prospects of crops are good. A little damage was done by the river rising too suddenly, but otherwise the prospects are very good.

**Furzedpore.**—Slight showers every day up to the evening of the 11th; since then it has been raining almost continuously, and over five inches of rain have fallen in 36 hours. The crops are generally prosperous. Those on the char lands have suffered from the rise of the rivers, but this must be expected; they never flourish unless there is drought in the rest of the district. The crops in some places are said to have suffered from want of rain, but the recent fall must have been enough for every body.

**Backergunge.**—Weather—seasonable throughout the week. The prospects of the crops are good. Some *aus* rice has been cut.

**Mymensingh.**—Weather—cloudy, with nearly constant light rain at head-quarters. The rainfall in the sub-divisions has been much less heavy. Good accounts of the state and prospects of the crops have been received from all quarters, except Jamalpore sub-division, where the floods have been unusually heavy, so much so that the whole low country is under water. Unless the rivers rapidly subside much damage will result.

**Tipperah.**—Strong winds from the south and south-east, with occasional heavy showers. Sky cloudy. The *aus* and *aman* crops are looking well. In a few places the former is being reaped.

**Chittagong.**—The weather continues fairly cool, though the rainfall so far has been considerably under the average. As regards the crops there is nothing new to report.

**Noakholly.**—High southerly wind during the week. Weather showery, but wanting in the heavy rain usual at this season. The prospects of the crops are good. Cultivation for the *aman* crop still continues.

**Chittagong Hill Tracts.**—Weather—generally hot, but a little cooler after the occasional falls of rain. The joom crops are doing well.

**Hill Tipperah.**—There was no rain during the first part of the week. In the last two days it has been raining continually, but not heavily. The crops are progressing favourably everywhere.

**Patna.**—Weather—seasonable. The state and prospects of the crops are favourable.

**Gya.**—The sky was almost cloudy. The maximum reading of the thermometer in the shade was 99°. Ploughing sowing and transplanting of rice and other crops are going on. In the Nowada sub-division the rainfall during the week was rather insufficient, but more is expected.

**Shahabad.**—Rain has fallen heavily in all parts of the district during the week. So far the prospects of the crops are very good throughout the district.

**Durbhanga.**—Weather—cool and showery. The transplanting of the rice seedlings is going on. There has been sufficient rain and the prospects of the crops are good.

**Mozufferpore.**—Weather—cool and showery. Transplantation of rice seedlings is going on rapidly, and the prospects of all crops are very good.

**Saran.**—Weather—hot and cloudy. Rain has been general throughout the district, and has done much good both in enabling the ryots to prepare the lands as yet unsown for *bhadoi* and *khurreef* sowing, and in reviving the crops that had commenced to wither. The manufacture of indigo (first cuttings) has commenced. Continuous rain is much wanted.

**Chumpanur.**—Weather—cloudy, with frequent showers. The rain has been of much benefit. Prospects continue good.

**Monghyr.**—Very heavy rain on the 12th and lighter rain at intervals during the week. *Janera* is coming up and will probably be a good crop.

**Bhagulpore.**—Weather—very rainy. Agricultural operations are steadily being carried on. The transplanting of *agahani* has commenced.

**Purneah.**—Constant rain and cloudy weather. The prospects of the crops are good, with the exception of indigo.

**Maldah.**—Weather—cloudy throughout the week. Four days' rain, accompanied with lightning and thunder. Very sultry, with only occasional puffs of wind. The prospects of the crops are good. Indigo manufacture has begun.

**Southal Pergas.**—Rainfall very uneven: lighter to the south-west. The state prospects of the crops are good everywhere. Transplanting of rice is as uneven as the rainfall: very backward in some places, well forward in others. *Janera* promises well everywhere, but may be damaged for want of sunshine.

**Cuttack.**—Weather—fine and hot, and cloudless skies. Sowing has almost been finished. *Beali* and *sarad* are growing, but not in a flourishing state for want of sufficient rain which is urgently wanted everywhere in the district. In some places *Beali* is being weeded.

**Pooree.**—Weather—seasonable. Rain is much wanted in the northern part of the Khoorda sub-division. The crops are good in the other parts of the district, but more rain is wanted for weeding. The state of crops in the salt tracts is, good and cultivation is going on briskly there.

**Balasore.**—The rainfall of the week has been very scanty and very irregularly distributed. In some places the crops have been damaged and cultivation stopped. On the whole the rainfall has been altogether insufficient, and the unseasonable drought causes anxiety.

**Hazareebagh.**—Weather—seasonable. The present prospect of the *bhadoi* crops are good. In some places the transplanting of rice has begun.

**Lohardugga.**—More or less rain is reported to have fallen all over the district. At head-quarters and in the vicinity the rainfall has been very scanty. Agricultural operation are in full progress. All crops promise exceedingly well though somewhat backward.

**Singbhoom.**—Weather—very unseasonable during the week. The last fall of rain was on the 5th, and since not a drop has fallen. The sky has been clear and uncloudy, without sign of rain, and weather hot. Want of rain has been much felt. The paddy fields are quite dry and cracked, instead of having some inches of water in them. The young paddy plants, although they will still revive if rain fall immediately, have commenced to feel the effects of the want of rain and are looking yellow.

**Manbhoom.**—The rains are scanty. During the first days of the week the weather was unseasonably hot. Rain in small quantity fell on the 12th. During the early part of the week the weather was unfavourable for the crops, and information has been received from the north of the district that the seedling rice was not doing well owing to want of rain.

It will be seen from the above that the Western districts are badly off, that many of the Central districts have been flooded, and the Orissa districts, particularly Balasore, and the Chota Nagpore districts are suffering from drought. It cheers our heart to know that the prospects of most of the eastern districts are favorable. The condition of the Behar districts generally is also good.

In the meantime prices have risen fearfully. In Rungpore rice and other food-grains are extremely dear. Common rice is selling at Rs. 4-8 per maund. This extremely high rate may not last long, and is attributable to the late heavy and almost incessant rain, which has to a very great extent stopped supplies. In the town of Kuch Behar rice has reached the almost famine price of Rs. 5 per maund. This, it is hoped, is temporary; when the new rice comes into the market prices must fall to some extent, and it is only the rain which is keeping it out. The great fear is that the excessive rains now may cause a deficiency in the rainfall later on and a consequent failure of the *haimanti* crop. In Chittagong on the 8th instant price rose to the unprecedented rate of Rs. 5-8 per maund for common rice owing to the exhaustion of supplies. They have since fallen from Rs.

4-8 to Rs. 4-14 per maund. It is reported that in the Chittagong Hill tracts on the 8th instant there were only about 25 maunds of rice in the whole market. Measures are being taken to obtain rice from Chittagong. Everywhere the prices are high and the poorer classes in many places we are told are living upon one meal a day. The anxiety of the people is aggravated by the fact that there are no old stores in hand, as the high prices in consequence of the Madras Famine forced all available stocks into the market. If the new crops fail, there will be a fearful famine in Bengal. May God avert that calamity!

#### THE POST OFFICE OF INDIA.

##### IV.

We propose to offer a few remarks to-day on the machinery of administration of the Post Office, the policy which leavens that administration, and its controlling and supervising agency. The most important class of postal officers, who were brought into existence by the great reformer of the Post Office, Mr. Riddle, are the inspectors, who have been aptly described as the eyes of the Post Master General. Their importance might be imagined from the fact, that if any of them should prove in the slightest degree slothful or remiss in his duties, the postal work of a whole division, comprehending two or three districts, would be thrown into confusion in no time, and the result would in all likelihood be robbery, abstraction, and dilatory transit of the mails. The duties of these inspectors are to see to the working of the Post Offices in their respective divisions, to direct and control the road establishment, to hold investigations into cases of theft and abstraction of contents from letters and parcels in order to trace the perpetrators, and to bring them to justice. From the condition of postal management obtaining in Bengal we find that there has been a material departure from the original scheme of the projector, and the inspectors instead of being what their name imports have become mere travelling clerks. What exists in Bengal is we presume taken to be the very pattern of excellence in the administration of the postal affairs, for the Post Master General of Bengal is under the immediate supervision of the Director General, both officers being located in the same building within hail of each other, and thus in a position for easy and constant communication. In Bengal, however, the infraction of the original scheme was the most marked—the inspection reports submitted by the inspectors were papers of no value, being jottings of stereotyped replies which any inspector might make without being at the trouble of holding an inspection, and if the forms were filled in, it was considered until lately a sufficient palaver for the conscience of the office of the Post Master General, who rarely looked into the quality of the work done. Thus the legitimate duties of the inspectors were not sufficiently looked after, while they were burdened with the work of correspondence, which it was never intended they should do, and which it was the proper business of the office to attend to. The truth is, there is such an amount of rubbish to dispose of that the Post Master General can hardly be expected to attend to every portion of it; he is necessarily at the mercy of his head clerk or the assistant, who is now designated superintendent, and those who know the Post Office can say whether it has not an instinctive abhorrence for intelligence and merit, whether this assistant, a pet of an ex-Post Master General, was at all fit for his post, and whether it was not his whole aim and object to shift responsibility from his shoulders and make scape-goats of inspectors. Others may feel surprised but they know well whether there is any other public office which is so noted for gross inefficiency; indeed, the wonder is how do the establishment under the Post Master General of Bengal manage at all to clear their heavy work. Well, the bulk of their business consists of correspondence with the inspectors, who being the immediate subordinates of the Post Master General, are bound to obey the mandates from the head office. The Director General hit the wrong nail on the wrong head when in 1872-73 he committed an irreparable injustice to the inspectors of Bengal, by allowing an officer of their own rank to override them by criticising their work.

The only effect that retrograde measure produced was a thorough demoralization of the whole circle; it lowered the inspectors in the estimation of their subordinates and broke the necks of the humble workers in the interior by inflicting upon many of them the uncalled-for and undeserved punishment of wholesale fines, degradation and dismissal. The Director General of the Post Office is, we make no doubt, an officer, who, in all measures that he initiates, is always actuated by the sole desire for the good of the Department, for the work of which he is responsible. But in the case under notice the blunder committed was so gross and palpable as to give a color to the unworthy imputation that the fuss about "prevailing laxity and slovenly performance of work" was a pretext for giving effect to a foregone conclusion, namely, the extensive introduction of the Christian element in the inspecting staff of the Bengal Circle. We do not of course believe this charge, but we cannot ignore the general impression on the subject. Mr. Hogg was in charge of the Bengal Circle for eighteen months before the event to which we have referred, and as Post Master General, he had found no fault with the system, but the moment he became officiating Director General he made the grand discovery. Did the "prevailing laxity, slovenly performance of work and want of discipline" come to the notice of the Director General all at once or gradually in the course of time? Did the Director General notice these serious evils from an examination of the operations of the Circle in question, which came under his observation, or were they pointed out to him by a subaltern? Did it not strike him that whatever the evil, it was due to the system of administration followed—that as the head office directed the subordinate offices acted, that because the principles of Mr. Riddle's scheme were not adhered to in practice therefore there were slovenliness of work? We beg respectfully to bring to Mr. Monteath's notice the following warning once given by a native gentleman to a friend, who had been entrusted by Government with a responsible office: "If you wish to come out of the service with an untarnished name keep yourself clear of favorites. If any of them have any claims upon you, reward them from your own purse, but don't quarter them upon the public service. Keep your eyes upon pushing characters and do not allow yourself to be deceived by the various artifices, which they have recourse to for raising the wind."

It is a great blot on the Postal Department of this country that no effective measures are taken to protect the public from loss by abstraction and theft. Sir William O'Shaughnessy not long after the introduction of the Telegraph into this country issued a fiat, if we remember right, that there shall be no interruption of communication, and it is significant though surprising that since the date of that apparently arbitrary order interruptions, which often occur from causes beyond human control, were reduced to a minimum. The Director General of the Post Office would be more reasonable if he were to will that there shall be no abstractions from letters and parcels entrusted to the Post Office. But this is a branch of postal business, which is placed in the category of jog-trot routine work. A theft is committed or valuables are abstracted from a letter or parcel, it is reported to the Post Master General and the Director General, and a *pro forma* report of enquiry is made, and there the matter rests. The Government is not responsible for losses sustained by the public, and it is hence suspected that the Post Office Department is supremely indifferent on the subject; rules for the treatment of registered letters are made from time to time, there is no want of attention there—they were altered and modified three times in the course of the last six or seven years, without any reference to the results obtained under the operation of the repealed rules; and the controlling authorities seldom take the trouble to see as to whether the investigating officer has looked into or reported any violation of departmental rules. Under the system in force there is no hope of the evil being ever stamped out. If a conscientious inspector, who at great sacrifice of time and trouble adopts a course, which he thinks is likely to lead to detection of theft or to trace it to its right source, he receives so little encouragement and support

that he never thinks of repeating a thankless task. Some idea of the skill and experience brought to bear on the investigation of such cases may be formed from the bungling of a simple case of abstraction, which came to our notice about four years ago. A Police Officer had sent as a remittance 16 rupees in silver encased in a bamboo tube, which was stuffed with waste paper and packed with oil-cloth. The parcel was despatched from Boda, a branch of the Julpiguri Post Office to Gobindgunge—a town on the line between Rungpore and Bograh. Two postal inspectors, a sub-inspector, and the police had investigated the case, all throwing the blame on the wrong shoulders, still the evidence pointing to the real thief or thieves was so clear and conclusive that we wonder how the perpetrators remained undetected. The advice *challan* of the despatching office gave the net weight of the parcel as 25 tollahs, the receiving office which received the parcel rifled found the weight of the package *minus* contents to be 9 tollahs, and that weight it always gave when weighed by the investigating officers. The transit *challan*, which travelled with the parcel and passed through two intermediate transit offices (Kuch Behar and Rungpore) gave the gross weight of the parcel, that is the weight of the parcel with the protecting cover. The gross weight as marked at Kuch Behar corresponded with the weight given by the despatching office, though at Rungpore the weight was some tollahs in excess, it having been exposed to a shower of rain on the way. The Rungpore Post Office had removed the wet-protecting cover and marked the net weight in the transit *challan* and that weight corresponded with the weight marked by the despatching office in the advice *challan*, which Rungpore had never seen. Now when the weight of the contents is a known factor—16 rupees must weigh 16 tollahs—the weight of the parcel *minus* the contents must be 25 less 16, and when the receiving office gave the weight as 25 *minus* 16 and noticed the condition of the parcel it could not fairly be charged with the theft. The fact ought to be borne in mind that nobody knew what the contents were until it was brought to light by the investigation, which followed abstraction. The abstraction must have been committed on the way during transit between Rungpore and Gobindgunge, and the depositions of the runners went to prove that they had noticed something hard striking on their backbone while running with the Gobindgunge mail-bag, which was unusual, and that they therefore communicated it to every succeeding runner as the bag changed hands. The Gobindgunge Post Office stands in the middle of a stage, and at the stage before, the one on which the Post Office stood, the relieving runner was not at his post, and so the man wanting to be relieved had to go in quest of him at a dead hour of the night—he was found in his house where the bag was taken charge of, and this man made it over at a late hour to the runner of the next stage in the middle of which the receiving office stood. The last runner dropped the Gobindgunge bag at the office and proceeded on his journey onwards. When examined he seemed to be very outspoken and anxious to assist the enquiring officer in ferretting out the theft, but the truth was he said many things more than what he was asked about and betrayed his complicity in the affair by his sly insinuations against others. From the fact of the tube sticking on the backs of runners it was clear that it stood in a vertical position. At the bottom of the bag there was a small old rent which when examined during investigation was found widened. When these facts were pointed out, the Post Master General received them rather coolly, the conclusion being at variance with what he had already adopted. But there are many other cases in point, which we need not mention. The wholesale abstraction, which took place only a year or a year and a half ago at Goa-lundo, by which the public lost about some 20 or 30 thousand rupees, and the tardy bungling enquiry, which followed, place beyond doubt the fact that the department does not view such cases in the same grave light as we do. So much for the vigilance of the Post Office in watching and protecting the interests of the public.

## SIR GEORGE CAMPBELL ON IRRIGATION.

SIR GEORGE CAMPBELL has strong ideas on Irrigation. As Lieutenant Governor of Bengal and as a Member of the Legislative Council he used to give his opinions on the subject strongly. He stated his opinions with equal energy in his evidence before the Commons' Committee on Indian Public Works. The first point to which he called attention was the accusation generally brought against our agriculturists that through ignorance and prejudice they would not take a supply of water. This accusation, he said, was wholly unfounded. It seemed to him that no man with any experience of India could pass through the country as a traveller without seeing that the natives had expended an immense amount of mechanical contrivances and an immense amount of labor, to maintain for themselves a supply of water. In fact, in the drier country of India, he had always found that an extreme desire existed for a supply of water wherever it could be got. Not only had the Natives expended much labor and money on small works of the kind, but he had become aware that in Native times and under Native administration the people themselves had attained to very considerable organisation as a single community, or by the joint action of several communities, in the construction of such irrigation works. Sir George gave the following history of the Orissa Canals, which shews how money has been wasted. It so completely confirms what we have so often written on the subject that we cannot resist the temptation of reproducing this portion of Sir George's evidence :

"His (Sir George Campbell's) impression was that the management of this company in England partook very much of the character of a financial undertaking, such as most of the committee had probably had some experience of it in the city; and when it appeared that the works were not likely to be directly profitable, and when the company were in difficulties, inasmuch as they could not find money to carry on the works as the Government wished them to be carried on, it seemed to him that the company in England adopted the policy—persistently getting in the way in order to be paid to get out of the way of neither doing the work themselves nor allowing the Government to do it. The Government under these circumstances wishing for the works to be completed found themselves in a difficulty; for the Orissa Company had not only got the concession for the Orissa works but for the Sone works also towards which they had done nothing at all. Then the company wanted to impose water rates which the Government thought excessive and to impose conditions which the Government thought would debar a fair increase of land revenue, and when they could not get what they wanted, they abused the Government. The result was that Lord Lawrence, who feared no difficulties in India, became frightened of the operations in the city of London, and was anxious to buy the works and get rid of the company almost on their own terms. The terms agreed to were that the work should be taken over from the company, and that the money which the company had expended should be repaid to them, plus a certain percentage. That might seem fair, but he believed that the Government did not ascertain whether the money they repaid was actually represented by those works. They took the works and paid what the company had spent, but no account was taken of how much of that amount was spent in financial operations in London. He had no direct knowledge, but some of the best engineers who were taken over the works had assured him that the works did not represent what was paid to the company, and that the expenditure in India was very much less than the sum paid by the Government. It appeared from statements recently published in the newspapers that the percentage paid over to the company was between £50,000 to £60,000; yet the Government took over nearly all the engineers, and the number who wanted compensation in this case was very small indeed. But a good deal more than half of the whole was awarded as compensation to the Secretary, who made a fortune out of the matter; while other people (the Natives) were ruined."

Sir George thus stated why the Orissa works have not proved a success :

"The engineers in order to overcome the prejudice of the Natives, resolved to establish a model farm to show the Natives the effect of the canal water; but although they took land, sowed crops, and distributed their water in the most admirable manner, they did not know much about agriculture, and in consequence their crops were a total failure. The Natives of

course saw this and were rather confirmed than otherwise in their objection to taking water. His opinion as to canal system was that in nine years out of ten there was enough rain without the canals; and that in the tenth year they could subsist on what rain there was—without paying for the canals for nine years when they did not want them, in order to have them in the one year when they were needed. The Natives were therefore disinclined to take water from canals till the natural supply absolutely failed."

Them's our sentiments, and we are glad that they have been confirmed by such a sagacious Indian administrator as Sir George Campbell. Sir George gave the following opinion on the general prospects of irrigation in India :

"The cost of the Orissa works was a cost applicable to a continual demand, but the demand was not continuous. The Sone Canal (continued the witness) was originally conceded to the Orissa Company, and was opened by Colonel Dickens. While he (the witness) was Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, the Government of India sent a despatch to the Bengal Government, stating that they proposed to make this work, and enclosing an estimate showing that large profit would accrue, and inviting remarks. He replied that he thought it right to warn them that the estimates were not worth the paper they were written on; that they were only fancy estimates; for the data for making estimates did not exist. The Government of Bengal having warned the Government of India at the time ought not, he thought, to be made responsible for the deficiencies of the work. He had been disappointed in the hope of the Sone works paying after the famine in that district, when the Natives had received water gratuitously; but according to the latest accounts, things were looking a good deal more favorable. But he was apprehensive on this point, because the question of relative rights of the ryots and the Zemindar in Bengal was a large one; and he feared that if the distribution of the water was left to the Zemindar it would be difficult for the ryots to hold their own. When in Egypt last year, he saw this danger illustrated; the Zemindar having the distribution of the water getting the best land and deriving a great advantage over the whole place. With regard to the irrigation works designed for north of the Ganges, Sir G. Campbell said the zemindars and the European planters in Behar refused to have them on the ground that whereas they could grow only barley but for opium and finer crops if the soil was once irrigated, it would be good for nothing afterwards. Under all the circumstances, Lord Northbrook decided to abandon these schemes, and in his (the witness's) opinion very rightly. While he was in Bengal, plans for compulsory irrigation were discussed, proposed by General Strachey, whose view was that irrigation being necessary for a great part of India, and the Natives understanding their own interests so little that they would not take the water, the best plan was to make the canals, and require the Natives either to take sufficient water to make the canals pay or to make up any deficiency caused by their not doing so. The difficulties of tenure and of distribution of water were such that if it could be ensured that no irrigation scheme should be undertaken which was not in itself wise and good and justifiable, he (Sir G. Campbell) quite admitted that there would be a good deal to be said in favor of a compulsory system—the more so as the canals in Madras which had succeeded had done so under a system which was practically for the most part compulsory. The irrigation rates were amalgamated with the revenue rates, and the latter being at the discretion of the Government were imposed on the people; and a man who had once been registered as having taken the water had no option of withdrawing. But at the time when General Strachey's plans were discussed, public opinion was very much in favor of irrigation; and he feared that if such a law was passed, the department would cover the country with expensive works and impose taxes to make up the deficiencies of such works."

The subject was exhausted by Sir George Campbell. His opinions were founded on long experience and close observation, and we hope they will not be disregarded.

## LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

THE FOLLOWING is the latest telegraphic intelligence from Europe :

London 20th July.—Mr. Henry Thoby Prinsep has been appointed a Judge of the High Court, Calcutta. Lord Hartington has given notice of a motion in the Commons, rejoicing that the Congress has resulted in the maintenance of European peace, and in the partial liberty and autonomy of Turkey, at the same time regretting the incomplete settlement of the Greek claims, and the undivided responsibility incurred by Government without the knowledge of Parliament.

21st.—Lord Hartington's motion will come on for hearing on the 25th instant. Mr. Gladstone yesterday made a speech at a Liberal demonstration held at Bermondsey, during which he vehemently denounced the Berlin Treaty and the Anglo-Turkish Convention, describing the latter as insatiable and duplicity and unworthy of Englishmen. He hoped the country would speedily judge the policy of the Government. According to information received from Constantinople an amicable arrangement between Turkey and Greece is considered certain.

Vienna 20th July.—It is denied here that Austria has engaged to guarantee security of the European provinces of Turkey, on condition of the Porte's agreeing to an Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Turks not only demanded a limit of duration strength, and area of Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina but insist also on suzerainty.

Constantinople 20th July.—Russian troops are marching on Batoum; 8,000 of the population are prepared to resist.

WE ARE glad to learn that the students and ex-students of the Calcutta Madrasa College propose to erect some memorial in honor of the late Mr. Blochmann. But the whole Mahomedan community in our humble opinion ought to join this movement. Mr. Blochmann was a great friend of the Mahomedans, and did his best to advance their interests. His services to the cause of Arabic and Persian literature deserve a national recognition from the Mahomedan community.

WE BELIEVE it is Mr. George Kellner, misspelt by the telegraphist, "Mellner," who has been appointed head of the Finance Department in Cyprus. We congratulate Mr. Kellner on this fresh appreciation of his merits. He is personally known to Lord Salisbury, and we believe his present appointment is due to his Lordship. It is a great compliment to the Uncovenanted Service of India.

WE ARE sincerely sorry to record the death of Sir Cowasji Jehangir Readymony of Bombay. He was a leading merchant of the Western Presidency, and being without an issue made the public his heir. It is said that he gave away about half a million of money in public benefactions. He made no distinction of race or religion in the dispensation of his charities. He was suffering from ailments for a long time and could not therefore take an active part in the social festivities of Bombay, but his purse was always open. H. R. H. the Prince of Wales honored him with a visit in his house during his stay in Bombay.

We have received the following letter from Bhopore :

I notice in your journal of the 15th instant that there was a heavy rainfall in the districts of Birkhoom, Houghly &c., but I deeply regret to say that there was not a drop of rain at Bhopore and the adjacent villages. The grounds are parched up. The transplantation of the *Amun* rice has been retarded from want of sufficient rain, though there was a shower of rain some time ago, which was quite inadequate for cultivation, but which has done a little good to the seedlings. The people of this place are praying to Heaven daily for rain. The price of rice is rapidly on the increase, so much so that coarse rice is selling at Rs. 3-8 per maund, from which we apprehend that we shall be soon in the midst of a famine of a severe type.

WE ARE glad to perceive that the idea which we threw out the other day for the establishment of some scholarships for the encouragement of *tal* students at the outdoor examination in Sanskrit lately sanctioned by the Government of Bengal is likely to be acted upon. It gives us great pleasure to be able to announce that the Hon'ble the Maharaja Joteendra Mohun Tagore Bahadur will found a monthly scholarship of Rs. 8, to be called after the name of his uncle the late Hon'ble Prosunno Coomar Tagore, and tenable for one year, and a Gold Medal, to be called after the name of his father the late Babu Hurro Kumar Tagore. The Gold Medal will be in the form of *Keuara*, a sort of gold arm-let, sometimes worn by our Pundits. This idea is excellent, and as the *Keuara* is likely to be worn by the recipient as a mark of honor at public assemblies, the new examination will rise in value in general estimation. If Hindu Society will generally co-operate by raising the value of the vidye or presents to those Pundits, who may win the scholarship and the medal, the examination is sure to become popular, and thus a

great impetus will be imparted to the study of Sanskrit. We hope other wealthy native gentlemen will follow this good example.

THE NEW FERRIES BILL, now before the Vice-regal Council, contains some startling provisions. For instance it provides a penalty for causing damage to bridges of boats by the careless navigation of vessels or rafts. The toll-collector is authorized in such cases to seize and detain the vessel or raft pending the award of compensation for damage done. There will be no interference of a Court of Justice. Again the Bill authorizes the local officers, in certain cases of urgency, to impress boats at ferries. The Punjab Government thought that the Magistrates of Districts should be expressly empowered to impress boats when it was necessary to temporarily increase the means of transit at a ferry for the conveyance of troops or of a large camp. So the impressment of ferries and labor is legalized!

DR. RAJENDRALALA MITRA's paper on "representations of foreigners in the Ajanta frescoes" is as usual very interesting. The pictures given are four in number, I. A Persian embassy to an Indian Court. II. and III. Domestic scenes. IV. Two figures, Indian and Bactrian. The learned doctor has given his reasons why he considers the figures those of foreigners. With regard to picture No. I he says:

"We are aware of no Indian race or tribe which differed so materially and markedly in complexion, features, and dress from the natives of the country as represented in the court. From beyond India on the north and the east, there was no nation which, two thousand years ago, could have presented such a group. We must look to the North-West, therefore, for the birth-place of the ambassador and his suite. Now on that side we had the Afghans, the Bactrians, the Scythians, and the Persians. But the Afghans never had the peculiar sugar-loaf hat, nor the flowing gown, nor the crescent helmet. Their features too, were, as shall be presently shown, coarser and ruder. The Bactrian and the Scythian dresses, to judge from numismatic evidence—the only evidence available in the case—were also different. The coat was short, the trousers tight-fitting, and the head-gear very unlike a sugar-loaf hat. The Persian dress, however, as we now have it, is the exact counterpart of what appears in the picture. The hat, the gown and the jacket are identically the same."

With regard to pictures Nos. II and III, following Dr. Bhau Daji, though not agreeing with him, Dr. Mitra remarks:

"Denying, however, accuracy of the identification of Vaktaka with Bactria and of Vindhyasakti having been a Bactrian, it might still be said that the figures under notice are Bactrians. In some Kerner coins the cap is conical, and surrounded by the turban or a band of fur like the Qilpq cap; the cut of the coat is of the same style, and the close-fitting trousers and stockings are, as far as can be made out in coins, the same. The coarse square face of the Mongolian type is particularly remarkable, and as the Bactrians exercised supremacy for some time in India from a little before the commencement of the Christian era, to nearly a century after it, it would be much more reasonable to suppose the representations to be of Bactrians, rather than those of Afghans, who attained to political distinction at the time, and were to some extent included among the Hindus."

The subject is very interesting, and further researches may throw more light upon it.

So we were quite right in our surmise that our well-informed contemporary of the *Englishman* was not guilty of the bold and unsupported statement made in a paragraph in his paper of the 10th instant about the Dacca road from Calcutta. Mr. H. I. Rainey has come forward *propria persona* to justify the statements contained in that paragraph; in his letter to the *Englishman* of the 19th instant, he says "it (Jessore) is situated however on the road between 'Chanpera' (Chanchra) and 'Dytulla' (Dhaitalla) and the positions of both these places will be found in the said map." The position of both these places we admit is distinctly marked in the map, but how does that fact prove that old Jessore (by whatever name it was then known) was situated on the Dacca road. The present town of Jessore, which is the subject-matter of Mr. Westland's report, is situated, as shown in this map, on a bend of the river Bhoirub, which thereby forms its northern as well as eastern boundary. The Dacca road as shown in the map of 1776 ran along the northern side of this bend, that is the side of the river opposite Jessore. Such being the case how can the road be said to have been *via* Jessore in 1776? The Dacca road, of which

mention is made in Mr. Westland's report as having been constructed in 1836, runs through Jessore, and the portion of it which lies within the town was metalled in 1838. But supposing that the road in question did pass *via* old Jessore, which, however, as shown above was physically impossible, how does it affect the real question at issue? We might mention without breach of confidence that in September 1872 we published in these columns an article from Raja Degumber Mitter, in which, relying on the correctness of his theory as to the causation of the epidemic fever of the malarious type, he stated that though he did not know when the fever broke out in Jessore, nor when the road called the Dacca road was constructed, still judging from the position of that road in relation to Beel Herina, the natural drainage outlet of Jessore, he had no hesitation in saying that the fever must have broken out there within a year or two of the construction of that road. Now, this statement is fully confirmed by Mr. Westland in his report on Jessore, which Raja Degumber Mitter for the first time came to know of from the report of the Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal for 1874, in which allusion was made to it in the following terms: "Mr. Westland says, 'great sickness broke out here in the year 1836 when the Jessore and Furreedpore road was being constructed by means of convict labour. &c. &c. &c.'" It is admitted by Mr. Rainey that the Dacca road on the Jessore side was and is still kutcha. Now of all men Mr. Rainey ought to know that no kutcha road, unless annually repaired, would stand the rush of water against it for three or four monsoons, especially when it crossed drainage channels. It is sure to be breached through and consequently washed away more or less during that period. It is most probable, therefore, that the road in question, even if it did pass *via* Jessore, was before 1836 quite on a level with the face of the country, and consequently offered no obstruction to the drainage flow of Jessore to its natural outfall the Beel Herina. It was only when the road was raised, if not constructed for the first time, as stated by Mr. Westland, that it intercepted the drainage of Jessore in its flow to its natural outlet, the Beel Herina, and the site of the obstruction being in close proximity to the town, the fever broke out in the very year the road was constructed, and the same was the case with Mahmudpore, which was almost depopulated.

AN ESTEEMED London Correspondent thus writes to us regarding the decision of the Privy Council in the Jayntia Hills case:

"You will have seen in the *Times* of the 6th instant that the Privy Council by a judgment delivered on the 5th reversed the decision of the High Court of Calcutta in the murder case of the Queen *versus* Bura, which had come up on appeal from Assam. The decision is likely to have a most baneful effect on the administration of justice in India, as it will enable the Government to restrict within such limits as it may think fit, the appellate jurisdiction and superintendence of the High Court over courts in the Mofussil; and you may well imagine the vagaries that would ensue, if the Mofussil Courts were relieved from their subjection to the High Courts of the Presidencies.

The particulars of the Assam case are these. Two men convicted of murder and sentenced to death in April 1876, and whose sentence had been commuted to penal servitude for life, appealed to the High Court at Calcutta, when the Government opposed the appeal on the plea that Assam had been removed from the jurisdiction of the High Court by Act XXII of 1869, under the provisions of which the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal had vested the administration of justice in the Commissioner of Assam, subject to his (the Lieutenant-Governor's) direction and control. The question was fully argued twice, and, in the result the majority of the judges consisting of Justices Markby, Kemp, Jackson and Ainslie held that the High Court had jurisdiction to entertain the appeal, notwithstanding the provisions of Act XXII of 1869. The Privy Council now hold that the Queen has power to alter and determine the territorial limits of the High Court and therefore that such an exercise of authority by the Governor-General as might remove any district from the jurisdiction of the High Court was expressly authorised.

If this judgement be correct, there is nothing to hinder the Government from removing other districts and ultimately reducing the appellate jurisdiction and superintendence of the High Courts almost to the limits of the Presidency towns; a course that it will probably take, judging from the repeated attempts it has made of late years to oppose the appellate jurisdiction of the High Courts.

The following considerations, however, lead me to believe that the judgement of the Privy Council is not correct.

(1):—The Act of Parliament (c 104 of 8th Augst 1861) under which the High Courts were established contains some very important provisions relating to the appellate jurisdiction and the power of control of the High Court over the Courts in the

Mofussil, which might be rendered nugatory if the authority contended for, and which is supposed to emanate from the same Act of Parliament, really existed.

(2):—The section of the Act of Parliament above mentioned which is interpreted by the Privy Council as empowering the Queen to alter and determine the territorial limits of the High Courts, is section 18, which is manifestly intended to readjust the territorial limits of the High Courts to those of the Presidency, where any change takes place in the latter, by the removal of a district or province from one Presidency to another. To assume that said section was intended to empower the Executive to remove any territory it may think fit, from the jurisdiction of every High Court, is to hold that Parliament, in passing the Act, intended its provisions to be nugatory, which they would indeed become if the power contended for, were exercised to its full extent.

The members of the Judicial Committee who sat on the case were, Lord Selbourne, Sir James Colville, Sir Barnes Peacock, Sir Montague Smith and Sir Robert Collier. The case was pending for a long time, and it is probable that all the Judges did not agree in the judgment delivered; but this fact is kept from the public, an order having been passed a few months ago, to the effect that the Judges as members of the Privy Council should not divulge the particulars of their deliberations but merely declare the decision arrived at. This order is contrary to the practice of every Court of Judicature, and the practice hitherto followed in the Privy Council itself; and it is difficult to ascribe it to a good motive."

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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## Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette, — July 17, 1878.

GENERAL.—Mr. J. F. Bradbury is appointed to act as a Magistrate and Collector of Dacca during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. D. R. Lyall, or until further orders.

Mr. H. S. Beadon, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Cuttack, is allowed leave for one month under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, in extension of the leave granted to him under orders dated the 16th May last.

Baboo Mohesh Chunder Sen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Gya, is allowed leave for three months under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he availed himself of it.

Baboo Juggeshur Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Shahabad, is allowed leave for fifteen days under the rules in Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he availed himself of it.

Baboo Juggeshur Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Shahabad, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870.

Baboo Dino Nath Chuckerbutty is appointed temporarily to be a Sub-Deputy Collector of the Second Grade in Rungpore during the absence, on duty, of Moulvi Abdool Khaliq or until further orders.

Mr. A. T. Maclean is appointed to be a District and Sessions Judge of the First Grade, *vice* Mr. H. B. Lawford, deceased.

Mr. Maclean will continue to be employed under the Government of India, in the Home Department, until further orders.

Mr. L. B. B. King, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on furlough, is appointed to be a District and Sessions Judge of the Second Grade, *vice* Mr. A. T. Maclean.

Mr. G. Toynbee is appointed to be a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the First Grade, *vice* Mr. L. B. B. King. Mr. Toynbee will continue to act in the Second Grade of Magistrates and Collectors until further orders.

Mr. A. Forbes, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, 24-Pergunnahs, is appointed to be a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the Second Grade, *vice* Mr. J. Whitmore.

Mr. D. W. M. Testro, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, on leave, is appointed to be a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the Second Grade, *vice* Mr. G. Toynbee.

Mr. Testro is also appointed to act, until further orders in the first grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, with effect from the date on which he was relieved of his appointment as Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Gya.

Mr. A. W. Cochran is appointed temporarily to be a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the Second Grade, *vice* Mr. A. Forbes.

Mr. Cochran will continue to act as Additional District and Sessions Judge of Chittagong until further orders.

Mr. R. M. Waller, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Bankura, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the Second Grade of Magistrates and Collectors, *vice* Mr. C. F. Worsley.

POLICE.—Mr. A. E. C. Bolst, District Superintendent of Police, Rungpore, is transferred to Mozufferpore.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. Gordon, District Superintendent of Police, is posted to Bhagulpore on his return from furlough.

Major W. W. Hume, District Superintendent of Police, Bhagulpore, on leave, is transferred to Bogra.

Mr. G. M. M. Ridsdale, District Superintendent of Police is posted to Rungpore on his return from leave.

Mr. O. B. Wood, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Chittagong Hill tracts, is allowed leave for two months and six days under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he availed himself of it.

JAILS.—Mr. P. Donaldson, Superintendent of Jails Manufactures, is allowed leave for three months under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code.

Mr. W. Leonard, Personal Assistant to the Inspector-General of Jails, is appointed to a t in addition to his own duties, as Superintendent of Jail Manufactures during the absence, on leave, of Mr. P. Donaldson, or until further orders.

## Advertisements.

### CITY COMMISSION AGENCY.

No. 102, COLLEGE STREET, CALCUTTA.

The undersigned begs to inform the Rajadhirajas Maharajas, Bahadoors, Zemindars, and the trade generally that they undertake to supply to the public imported and country goods and household requisites as well as all staples, and to dispose of and bring articles which may be required to be bought or sold in Calcutta. The transaction will always be *bona fide*, and best endeavour will be made to secure every advantage to their constituents on a charge of a small commission. As to terms of the commission and other particulars every information will be afforded on application to the undersigned.

The following medicines are available to the public at the office of the Commission. Mr. K. C. Chatterji's medicine for the cure of pills, and medicines for the cure of debility, chronic fever, and diseases arising from the use of mercury. For prices and other particulars please apply to the undersigned.

Calcutta, } KURRAL CHUNDER CHATTERJIE,  
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A Head Master for the North Lakhimpur Middle-Class English School, salary Rs. 45, application will be received up to 25th August, by

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Tenders should specify the rate per 1000 cubic feet at which the earthwork will be undertaken and whether they are for the whole or only a part of the road. In the latter case tenders should specify the quantity of earthwork proposed to be undertaken and in what miles it is situated.

Work is to be commenced not later than 15th November 1878, and completed by the 15th March 1879. Earnest money to the amount of Rs. 500 must accompany each tender, and security will be required to be deposited on acceptance of any tender, to the extent of 10 per cent of the value of the work undertaken.

Tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer, Lower Assam Division, Dhubri, and will be received up to the 10th August 1878. The right of rejecting any or all of the tenders is reserved.

For further particulars and forms of tender, apply to the undersigned.

Dhubri,  
The 1st July 1878.

BHOLANATH DASS, C. E.  
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The book is a very good one. Written in a temperate tone, it is entirely free from the vulgarisms which disfigure many of our Bengali novels. The style is chaste and elegant, and the book interspersed with disquisitions on various subjects,—many of them very thoughtful and original. The characters are almost all such as we should expect to find them in real life; and throughout, the book seems to be a faithful picture of Bengali society three centuries ago, unmixed as it was then with the conventionalisms that have crept into it now-a-days. The first meeting of Umapati with Muk-takeshi, his love at first sight, and his courtship, are truly interesting, but their meeting after Umapati's miraculous rescue from the hands of the robbers, is still more affecting.

The book gave us much pleasure and we have no hesitation in recommending it to our readers, and in advising the author to continue his exertions and give us some more readable additions to elegant Bengali literature.—The Calcutta Review, January 1876.

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#### Report by the Directors

PRESENTED TO THE

Sixty-eighth Annual General Meeting of the Company  
Held at Edinburgh on Friday, 5th April 1878.

The Directors submit the following Report on the business done by the Company during the year which closed on the 31st December last:—

#### Life Business.

During the year 1877 there have been issued 1026 Policies, assuring £1,003,580, the new Premiums on which amount to £32,049: 10: 5.

The Claims which occurred during the year, including 10 Endowments, were 280 in number, arising under 341 Policies, and the sums which became payable on account of these amount with Bonus additions, to the sum of £299,863: 10: 6.

As will be seen from the State of Affairs annexed, the Life Assurance Fund now amounts to £2,711,876: 11: 7, being £105,446: 17: 10 above what it was on 31st December 1876. The whole of this fund is separately invested, and, by Act of Parliament, set aside to meet the claims under that Department of the Company's business.

After paying the Dividend, the Reserve Fund will amount to £794,576: 19: 11, and the Premium Reserve to £302,671, 8s. 5d., together amounting to £1,017,248: 8: 4. At 31st December 1876 these Funds amounted to £1,082,768: 11: 10, showing an increase this year of £14,479: 16: 6.

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